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RSP ALL SET TO SWEEP NEPAL POLLS AS COUNTING REACHES FINAL STAGE

As of Sunday evening, the Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP) won 122 of 165 seats and was leading in six others, Nepal's Election Commission said

COUNTING FOR 159 SEATS COMPLETED

As per the latest update, the Nepali Congress (NC) is a distant second with 17 seats, while the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) led by K P Sharma Oli has won eight seats, and the Nepal Communist Party has secured three seats. As per an official update on Sunday evening, the counting was completed in at least 159 seats

POLL PANEL WITHHOLDS RESULT IN ONE SEAT

- The result in one seat, Dhanusha Constituency-1, may take a while longer as a court order is pending on the eligibility of RSP's candidate
- Among the three former Nepal prime ministers who contested the March 5 general election, only Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda' managed to win. Both K P Oli Sharma and Madhav Nepal lost | **P11**

24,55,764

WON BY RSP IN PROPORTIONAL VOTING SYSTEM

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

1. Defending champs India won their third T20 World Cup, becoming the first team to do so in process
2. Co-hosts became the first team to lift T20 WC at home. In previous 9 editions, no home team had won
3. India's total of 255/5 is the highest in a T20 WC final, bettering their 176/7 vs SA in 2024
4. Gautam Gambhir became the first India head coach to capture two ICC titles

HISTORY MAKERS AT HOME

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Ahmedabad

India players lift the trophy after their victory in Ahmedabad on Sunday | DEBADATTA MALLICK

AT long last, glory and a batting spectacle. Release. An outpouring of love from over a lakh of people, most of them dressed in various hues of India blue. In the scene of their greatest defeat, one of their biggest wins. The scars of November 19 (loss to Australia in ODI World Cup final) will remain but March 8 will bring with it the necessary balm to tide over the ghost of that horror. The stadium, gateway to India's biggest sporting project, can heal. The T20 World Cup will stay with them.

For the tens of thousands who were part of the imposing circular Blue Wall from as early as 4.30 PM, this was a memory for a lifetime. Even as Suryakumar Yadav & Co. took turns to hold aloft the shiny 6kg mostly silver trophy deep into the Ahmedabad night, nobody was prepared to go home. Board exams be damned, a new work week could wait. Sleep was set aside for a few hours to watch their favourite sporting team create history.

No side had ever won this title at home. No team had ever defended this title. Nobody had won it thrice. India took a sledgehammer to history. That's how you create a new sporting identity. Not by winning it once but doing it again and again. It's why Australia have an aura about them. It's why Brazil are football's aristocrats. It's the only path towards invincibility. You can be good, but to be truly immortal, you need to make winning your only calling card.

And they did everything in their power. Eighteen months of preparation was followed by trips to temples, delaying a training session as it collided with a lunar eclipse during their World Cup campaign. There was even an apocryphal story about changing hotels.

And it was apt that Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan and Abhishek Sharma, the three musketeers who had been identified to redefine the art of batting in this format, took them there.

They have shown the limits of what's possible in this format. Needing 255, it was too much for the Kiwis. **P13**

Iran picks new Supreme Leader as war deepens

US-Israel strikes hit oil infra in Tehran; Iran destroys targets in Kuwait, Bahrain

AGENCIES @ Tehran, Tel Aviv, Dubai

IRAN's Assembly of Experts tasked with appointing the next Supreme Leader reportedly arrived at a majority decision on Sunday, but stopped short of naming him.

The 88-member clerical body has sought some time to remove "some obstacles" before announcing the name. Khamenei's son Mojtaba is billed to be the front-runner to succeed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, killed over a week ago in the strikes that triggered the war between Iran and Israel-US.

The development came on a day when US-Israeli air strikes destroyed fuel dumps and triggered fires that choked much of Tehran in a thick blanket of smoke. In response, Iran struck Gulf infrastructure, hitting fuel tanks at Kuwait's international airport and hit a desalination plant in Bahrain with the war reaching its second week.

WAR WATCH

The war, which Israel and US launched on February 28, has so far claimed at least 1,230 lives in Iran, 397 in Lebanon including 83 children, 11 in Israel, and six US soldiers.

The impact of the conflict is no longer limited to West Asia as it has rattled global markets, oil indices and disrupted air travel. If the war continues for long, it could impact energy prices worldwide. In India, cooking gas prices have already gone up.

With the joint US-Israeli strikes continuing on Tehran, Iran's president Masoud Pezeshkian vowed to expand attacks on US targets across the Gulf. "The more pressure they impose on us, the stronger our response will naturally be," Pezeshkian said.

Neighbouring countries have borne much of Tehran's brunt, with 16 people killed in the Gulf states since the war began, according to an AFP tally. Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait all reported new attacks on Sunday.

Israel-US hit Iran's oil well

A thick plume of smoke rose from an oil well hit by a US-Israeli strikes in Tehran Sunday. Israel said it struck "a number of fuel storage facilities in Tehran" used "to operate military infrastructure"

Brent crude at 5-year high

Crude oil price continued rising after some key countries slashed their output. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) soared to $115 on Sunday. Brent rose to $117, the highest level since 2022

Arab League warns Iran

Arab League's secretary-general Ahmed Aboul Gheit said Sunday that Iranian attacks on Gulf member states were "reckless", urging Tehran to reverse what he called a "massive strategic mistake"

AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge and DCM DK Shivakumar in Chittapur on Sunday

Trump is a dictator and Modi his slave: Kharge

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI
@ Kalaburagi

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, also opposition leader in the Rajya Sabha, launched a scathing attack on US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging, "Trump is a dictator and Modi is his slave."

Participating in a foundation-stone laying ceremony for projects worth over Rs 1,060 crore in the Chittapur constituency at Chittapur town on Sunday, he said the US has allowed oil purchases from Russia for only a month now and Modi is listening to what America says.

On the ongoing war in West Asia, he said that when Jawaharlal Nehru was Prime Minister, the Non-Alignment Pact was signed, which had led to world peace. "But what is Modi doing now? After he went to Israel, it bombed Iran. Iran's leader Khamenei was assassinated. If the leader of a country is assassinated, will that country be at peace? Will it be possible for the world to be at peace? Modi has made friendship with Trump and put our country in a bind," he said.

"Epstein files contain information about who went to the sexual offender. Trump is keeping it to scare Modi," he alleged. Though Congress ruled for 75 years, it always protected the interests of the country. "No other country imposed conditions on India when Congress was in power," he added. **P5**

BUDGET SESSION

Sparks to fly as motion against Speaker in Lok Sabha today

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE stage is set for a stormy start to the second leg of the Budget session of Parliament on Monday, with the Lok Sabha set to take up an Opposition motion seeking the removal of Speaker Om Birla.

The rare move, which is the first in nearly four decades, highlights the deepening rift between the Opposition and the ruling side. The government is likely to allocate around three hours for the discussion on the motion, with three members each from the Treasury and Opposition benches expected to participate, sources said. From the Congress, either Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi or K C Venugopal, is likely to participate in the debate, sources said.

While both the Congress and the BJP have issued whips directing their members to be present in the House, the BJP-led NDA holds a clear numerical advantage to defeat the resolution in the 543-member Lok Sabha. However, the Opposition received a boost after the Trinamool Congress announced Saturday that it would support the motion.

As many as 118 opposition members had submitted notice to move a resolution to remove Birla from office for not allowing the Leader of Opposition and other opposition leaders to speak in the House on the motion of thanks to the President's address, as well as for suspending eight opposition MPs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has backed Birla, stating he had taken all Parliamentarians along and was committed to upholding the principles of the Constitution and Parliamentary democracy.

Amid the escalating conflict in West Asia, Lok Sabha will also see a briefing by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on the evolving situation there.

MHA asks Bengal chief secretary to explain lapses during Prez visit

SUBHENDU MAITI & PARVEZ SULTAN @ Kolkata / New Delhi

THE Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Sunday sought a detailed report from the West Bengal government on the alleged protocol violation and lapses during President Droupadi Murmu's visit to the state on Saturday to attend the International Santal Conference in Darjeeling district.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan directed West Bengal Chief Secretary Nandini Chakraboty to explain the alleged lapses in security protocol, venue arrangements, and travel route during the President's programme.

Sources said the MHA also wanted to know the reason behind the failure the chief minister, chief secretary, and DGP to receive the President upon her arrival, which is a gross violation of protocol.

President Droupadi Murmu | PTI

No violation: Mamata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday claimed there was no protocol violation at the President's programme, terming it a "private event"

The conference was held at a ground near the Bagdogra airport in Gosainpur, instead of the planned venue in Bidhannagar. Speaking at the event, on Saturday, Murmu had publicly expressed displeasure over the low turnout, attributing it to the change of venue, and noted the absence of the CM and her ministers.

In her response, Banerjee accused the President of playing politics at the best of the BJP ahead of the state polls, triggering a political firestorm.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tore into the Trinamool Congress (TMC) saying the "enlightened people" of West Bengal would never forgive the party for "insulting" the President, who is a woman and a tribal. "The dirty politics and arrogance of power of the TMC, which has gravely insulted a tribal President, will soon be shattered... The country will not forgive them, the tribal community will not pardon them, and the women of the nation will not forgive them," Modi said.

Final ward-wise quota list out for GBA polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AFTER considerable delay, the final ward-wise reservation for 369 wards under the five city corporations of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) was released by the government on Saturday night. In all, 176 wards have been reserved for women. This will take Bengaluru closer to the much-delayed civic elections, which the state government has committed to hold before June 30 in front of the Supreme Court.

In all, 198 wards have been reserved for the general category, 43 for Scheduled Caste, seven for Scheduled Tribe, 97 for Backward Class A and 24 for Backward Class B. The draft of the reservation list was released on January 8, allowing objections to be filed by January 23. On Saturday, announcing the list, the undersecretary of the urban development department stated that the objections were submitted before the review committee, constituted under the chairmanship of the additional chief secretary, on February 17. The committee examined the objections as per the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024. It observed that some suggestions were justified and changes were made accordingly.

The committee then recommended the list, maintaining the quota for all sections as per the guidelines, to the government, which approved it, the undersecretary stated. **P2**

EXPRESS READ

Dalit in custody dies in TN hosp, kin allege torture

SIVAGANGA: A 26-year-old Dalit youth, who was arrested by police in connection with an assault case at Manamadurai, Sivaganga district, allegedly died while undergoing treatment for fracture at the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai early on Sunday. His family claimed that he was tortured by the police **P7**

TOUGH LUCK

India's Lakshya Sen goes down fighting in the All England Open Final to Chinese Taipei's Lin Chun-Yi. Lakshya, 24, who trains in Bengaluru, lost 15-21, 20-22 in 57 minutes. It was Lakshya's fifth straight loss to Lin | PIC: X | **P13**

15-yr-old student goes on rampage in hostel, kills 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Ballari

A shocking incident of assault unfolded late Saturday night at the hostel attached to Gurukul International School, a private educational institution, on Talur Road in Ballari district, leaving one student dead and several others injured.

Ballari Superintendent of Police Suman D Pennekar said a 15-year-old boy, classified as a child in conflict with the law, allegedly assaulted eight to nine fellow students at the hostel.

The attack occurred around 10.15 pm after dinner when most students were asleep or resting.

The accused boy has been arrested. The Ballari police are interrogating him to connect the dots and the reason behind the heinous crime.

Asked if the boy was inspired by internet games, the SP said, "The school does not allow use of mobiles. I don't think he was inspired by any internet game."

The accused boy reportedly used a sharp weapon and an iron rod, described by the police as a bed frame, to attack his classmates indiscriminately. Among the victims were eight students and the hostel warden, who also stays on the premises and tried to intervene.

One 15-year-old student, Hemanth Lakshman from Adoni in Andhra Pradesh, died in the assault, while one other victim is said to be in a serious condition. "The condition of the student is improving," the SP said. The remaining students sustained various degrees of injuries and were immediately rushed to the Ballari Medical College and Research Centre and other nearby hospitals for treatment. **P5**

ALMANAC TODAY

Monday: 09.03.2026 **Year:** Vishwavasu **Ayana:** Uttharayana **Ritu:** Sishir **Masa:** Phalguna **Paksha:** Krishna **Tithi:** Shashti 9.58 pm **Nakshatra:** Vishaka 3.06 pm **Moon in** Vrischika Rashi **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am **Gulikakala**: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 18°C | MAX 33°C

FORECAST Increasing cloudiness

Sunrise 06.31 am | Sunset 06.29 pm | Moonrise 11.27 pm | Moonset 10.11 am

MAKING A MARK

WOMEN LEADERS STEP UP CAMPAIGN AHEAD OF GBA POLLS

Parties say candidates will not involve family to run canvassing

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

WITH the Supreme Court setting a June-end deadline to conduct elections to five municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and ensure elected councils are in place, women aspirants from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bengaluru Navanirmana Party (BNP) and Karnataka Rastriya Samithi (KRS) have already hit the ground in poll mode.

From meeting residents to addressing civic issues and raising their voice against government failures, the young women are actively engaging with the public. Interestingly, the parties have maintained that candidates will not involve family members, including husbands, in running their campaigns.

Among them are Septinda Jeevaa, an entrepreneur and communication professional from Yelenahalli, and Shraddha Prabhu Kumar, a former software developer and trainer representing BNP. They said the party has identified competent and committed candidates who have already been working on civic issues in their communities.

"Many of the issues we discuss every day as citizens are shaped by governance. That is why some of us have chosen to step forward and be part of the solution," they said.

Shraddha added that the party has developed a well-researched manifesto focusing on practical solutions, including scientific waste management, improved roads and footpaths, better public amenities and stronger public schools.

"In addition, the party has helped create area sabhas across several wards to strengthen citizen participation in governance," she said.

The leaders also noted that many women had stayed away from politics earlier because they believed the system was difficult to change. However, they said more women are now stepping forward as issues such as roads, transport, pollution, water supply and urban planning directly affect daily life.

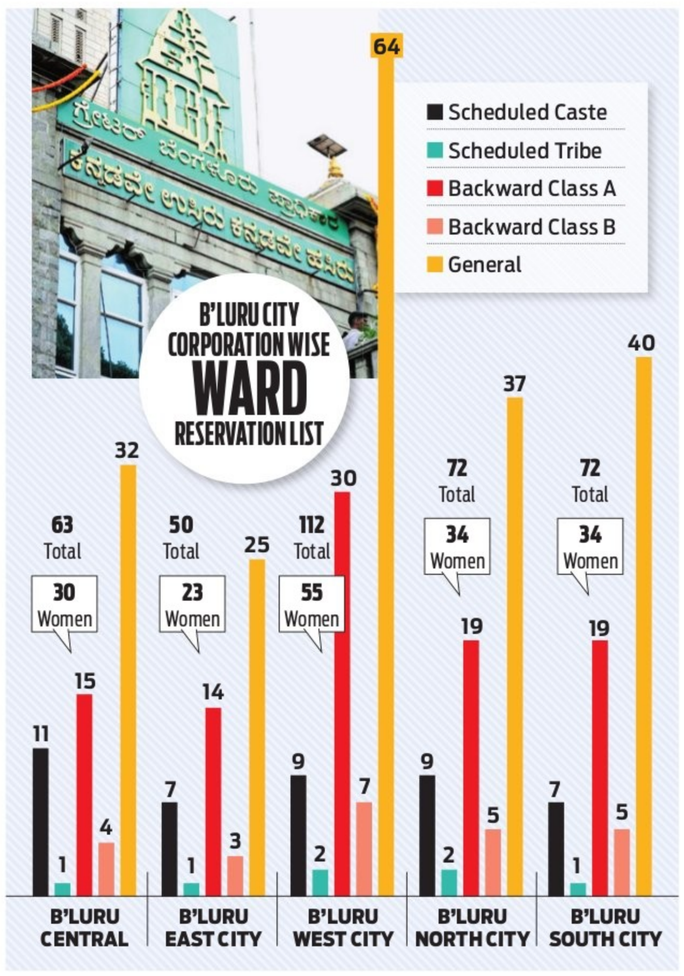
Meanwhile, AAP said it has been actively campaigning on social media while raising issues concerning both the State and Central governments and highlighting how national parties have failed to address Bengaluru's civic challenges.

Pushpa Keshav, from Binnypet in Gandhinagar, who organised free food for around 500 people for nearly two months during the Covid-19 lockdown, said she hopes voters will support her during the GBA elections.

"I have also worked to save a 105-year-old Kannada school in Binnypet from land sharks. These efforts will add to my credentials during the campaign," she said.

Another aspirant, Anjali P, who runs a tea stall in JP Nagar and plans to contest from Jayanagar–Marenahalli, said she has helped residents obtain voter ID cards, Aadhaar cards and pensions for pourakarmikas.

She also organised a pilgrimage for women from slum areas to Melmaruvathur for the Om Shakti puja, spending around Rs 1.5 lakh. She has been roped in as a candidate by the KRS party.



In addition, the party has helped create area sabhas across several wards to strengthen citizen participation in governance

Shraddha Prabhu Kumar, BNP candidate

BECC takes over 14 acres for road widening

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) has taken possession of 14 acres of land worth Rs 510 crore for the widening of major and sub-arterial roads, BECC Commissioner D S Ramesh said.

"So far, 52 properties have been taken over as part of the ongoing operation within BECC limits," he said.

The land has been taken over mainly along ITPL Main Road, Whitefield Main Road and in Doddanekkundi, where land has been reserved for the proposed road connecting the Outer Ring Road and the Peripheral Ring Road.

The Commissioner said lands relinquished through relinquishment deeds and those identified for road widening under the Revised Master Plan (RMP) 2015 have been taken into possession by the corporation.

According to the government guideline value, about 14 acres (56,722.6 sq m) of land worth around Rs 510 crore has been secured for road and infrastructure development.

"To prevent encroachment, signboards stating that the land is reserved for road widening and belongs to the city corporation will be installed," Ramesh said.

The land will be used for the expansion of arterial and sub-arterial roads, development of footpaths and construction of cycle tracks wherever necessary, along with other supporting infrastructure.

The Commissioner said widening key roads will help reduce traffic congestion, improve traffic flow and provide better road infrastructure, while strengthening the city's infrastructure for future growth.

Considering the rapid development and increasing traffic density in the BECC region, strengthening the capacity of major roads has become essential, he said.

CHAK DE INDIA!

Cricket fans celebrate after India defeated New Zealand to win the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 final, on Church Street on Sunday | KEVIN NASHON

Kanyathon raises ₹65 lakh for scholarships to 1,000 girls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE 15th edition of Kanyathon, a student-led charity marathon that provides scholarships to girl students from disenfranchised communities, was held in Bengaluru on Sunday. The marathon, endorsed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, saw participation from around 10,000 runners, nearly 30 times the turnout of its inaugural edition in 2011.

Rakshita, a final-year BCom student at IFIM College, is one of this year's beneficiaries. She scored 87% in her Class 10 board examinations and 95% in Class 12, despite losing her father during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her mother, who works as a housekeeper at a school, has been supporting the family single-handedly, but meeting college expenses and funding Rakshita's classical dance training has become increasingly difficult. The scholarship will now allow her to continue her pursuits.

With Rs 65 lakh raised through this edition, around 1,000 girl students from government schools in Karnataka and Maharashtra will receive scholarships, along with support for digital and health education.

Prospective beneficiaries will also receive lessons on health awareness and digital literacy through the programme's nine Kanyathon Shiksha Kendras in Karnataka and Maharashtra. These centres will sensitise students about menstrual health and provide access to feminine hygiene products. Funds for this year's marathon were raised by students from IFIM College, Vijaybhoomi University and Jagdish Sheth School of Management (JAGSoM).

NO REPLY TO RTI, BDA OFFICER FINED ₹1L

Bengaluru: A Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) officer who repeatedly failed to provide information sought under the Right to Information Act was slapped with Rs 1 lakh fine by the Karnataka Information Commission. Umesh D S, Deputy Secretary-1 of Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) was imposed fine under four different cases. The Commissioner said that four applicants- Takshak, Tanvita Gaur, Ashvija P and Balachandra Rao had sought information which was not provided by Umesh. All four applicants filed an appeal with the Commission. Despite issuing a show-cause notice, the official failed to provide the information. The Commissioner imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 for each case on Umesh and questioned why his name should not be recommended to the State Government for disciplinary action. Similarly, the Commission has levied a Rs 25,000 fine on C L Shivakumar, Secretary, BDA, for failing to provide information.

BMTC leads fleet modernisation, inducts 2,292 new buses in 2.5 years

INDRA S @Bengaluru

THE Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has scrapped 1,886 old buses and inducted 2,292 new buses over the past two and a half years as part of a fleet modernisation initiative aimed at improving reliability and expanding public transport services in the city.

With a fleet of around 7,000 buses operating nearly 6,283 daily schedules, the addition of newer vehicles has enabled BMTC to introduce approximately 400 additional schedules over the past year, improving service coverage and frequency across Bengaluru.

Officials said each newly inducted bus costs between Rs 38 lakh and Rs 42 lakh, depending on the model.

Speaking to *TNIE*, GT Prabhakar Reddy, Chief Traffic Manager of BMTC, said the corporation now has one of the youngest bus fleets among city transport corporations in India. "With a younger fleet, breakdowns and maintenance needs come down. Reliability and regularity improve, ultimately benefiting passengers through better quality service," he said.He added that the additional schedules have helped BMTC expand services to new areas and increase frequency on existing routes based on commuter demand.

BMTC has also launched services along the NICE Road corridor, which currently serves around 16,000 passengers daily.

"To improve connectivity from suburban areas, the corporation has introduced express bus services from about 11 locations, including Devanahalli, Doddaballapur, Nelamangala and Dabaspet, to the city centre," he said. These services operate with limited stops, allowing commuters to travel end-to-end faster, especially during peak hours. Across Karnataka's four transport corporations, a total of 3,714 buses have been scrapped, 2,099 refurbished, and 5,509 new buses inducted.

United Hospitals launches women's preventive health-screening programme

Bengaluru: United Hospitals launched a Women's Preventive Health Initiative on Sunday as part of International Women's Day, aiming to promote early detection of health issues and encourage women to undergo regular preventive health check-ups. The initiative was unveiled at an event attended by actress Chitkala Biradar, actress Kavya Mahadev and singer Amrita Nayak, who joined hospital officials in highlighting the importance of prioritising women's health. The hospital announced a preventive health screening package priced at Rs 299. The package includes basic laboratory investigations, heart health assessment, women's cancer screening and a doctor consultation. Authorities said the programme is designed to make preventive healthcare more accessible and affordable. The programme will be available from March 10 to April 9. A limited number of sponsored slots will also be offered, and appointments will be provided through prior booking. Women interested in the programme can register in advance to avail the screening during the specified period.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

09th March : Lunar Alarm Clock Children push boundaries because they're still learning the rules. Adults who do the same without listening to feedback are like overpowered toddlers. Those who can't perceive consequences or update their behavior create distortions and disruptions. A rapid array of lunar aspects rings out like a cosmic alarm clock, attempting to wake the oblivious.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Your job goes smoothly when customers, clients, colleagues and bosses all agree on the nature of the task at hand. Figure out where they're at so you can build the bridge that gets everyone on the same page.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
Today is a tasting platter of delights. Happiness in small doses is the luckiest kind because you can savor it in real time. Enjoyment and brevity go hand in hand. Pleasures in excess become pains.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Those who lean too far back are as likely to fall as those who lean too far forward. As for you, you'd rather see what you're getting into. It gives you more options, more chances for grace and a richer experience in general.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
The self-talk you practiced to support yourself is now a part of your inner world -- a habit of mind that helps friends, too, as words of encouragement are readily accessible to you. Being good to yourself is being good to others.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Does it feel as though you've been miscast? Like a high school production where some child is going to have to play "Grandpa," we don't always get the option to work within our natural type. And yet, here you are -- brilliant anyway.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Someone is ready to grow and you're ready to help. You're an excellent teacher and will be so happy to once again contribute to another person's learning process. Do not doubt that your input will shape destiny in some way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
You're open, but discerning. Today, you'll enjoy the show and still see the strings. Being entertained requires trust. Spotting a lie requires self-respect. You can do both at once, which highlights your social intelligence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
The story convention of romantic comedies: two characters can't stand each other, except for the fact that they are actually in love. Real love tends toward fewer fireworks, more warmth. Less clever hostility, more comfort.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Some give their trust sparingly, but you won't take it personally. They have their reasons and you don't need to know what those reasons are to practice patience, tolerance and respect for other people's timing. In the end, respect wins out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
In the same way people just back from their vacation can need a vacation from vacation, you may need a break from taking a break, or some work that gets you out of work -- and your need will be met.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
To admit what you don't know takes humility, wisdom and self-esteem. Thinking you are only as good as what you know is a trap -- a small, sad cage. So ... what's outside it?

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
You sense there may be more available to you and you're absolutely right. Demonstrate good stewardship of what you have and you'll attract the right attention and seed a growing curiosity about how it might evolve.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

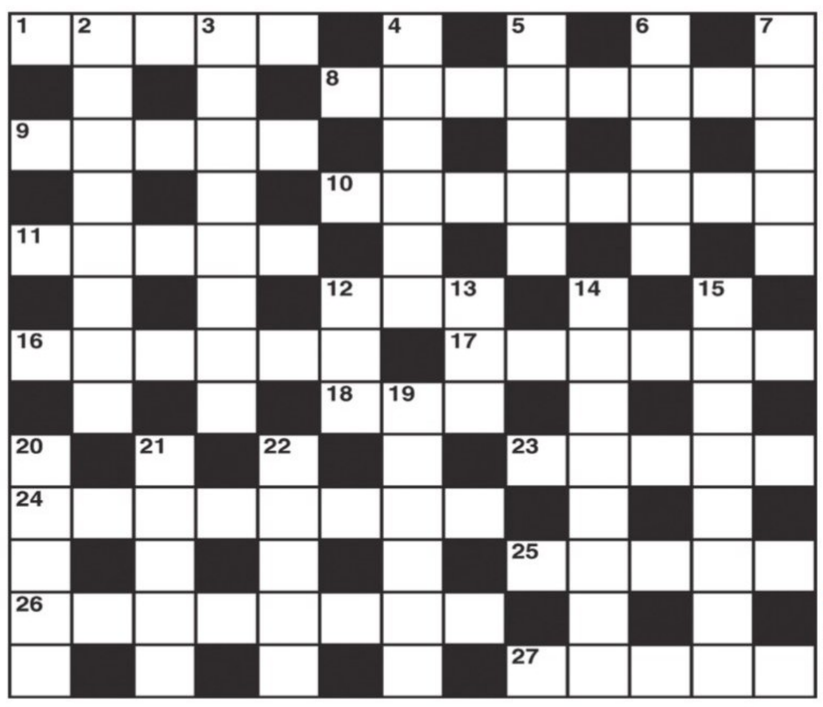
6		5						
3		4	9					7
		1	6			2		
					2		7	6
9								1
2	1		8					
		7			6	1		
4					5	3		8
						7		4

6	8	7	2	5	4	9	3	1
2	5	4	3	1	9	6	8	7
1	9	3	7	8	6	5	2	4
9	3	1	4	7	5	2	6	8
5	4	8	6	2	1	7	9	3
7	2	6	8	9	3	4	1	5
8	1	5	9	6	7	3	4	2
4	7	9	1	3	2	8	5	6
3	6	2	5	4	8	1	7	9

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Point and scoff at old-fashioned garment (5)
8 Lively maiden at play (8)
9 This man is always outspoken (5)
10 Some rags woven into a very fine material (8)
11 A spell in the Dutch array (5)
12 Went ahead in a sledge (3)
16 People will mind if you dump your kids here (6)
17 Region possibly showing neglect (6)
18 As quiet as a snake (3)
23 It has branches in Lebanon (5)
24 Superior skill includes organ-playing (8)
25 It has set like a film (5)
26 We're glad to hear it goes down the wrong way! (4,4)
27 Silly Annie is upset (5)

DOWN

2 They take steps to protest perhaps (8)
3 Reduce length of one spade for example (8)
4 Pay in advance (6)
5 A nasty accident on the tennis court? (5)
6 One impression of the postal service (5)
7 Love to make a fuss about something (5)
12 Part of the arable acreage (3)
13 Thief who inevitably has to go down (3)
14 Trendy individual is here himself (2,6)
15 Production of Haydn's oratorio (8)
19 Southern wines blended for strength (6)
20 Push your way in and snatch up the key (5)
21 Smarten up a man on his wedding day (5)
22 Energy is used is any form of torture (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Broomstick, 6 Disc, 10 Major, 11 Centurion, 12 Scottish, 13 Lunge, 15 Mooting, 17 Article, 19 Risotto, 21 Capital, 22 Visor, 24 Tendered, 27 Say no more, 28 Trial, 29 Deed, 30 Press agent.

Down: 1 Bump, 2 Objectors, 3 Merit, 4 Tacking, 5 Cynthia, 7 Ixion, 8 Cinderella, 9 Full stop, 14 Improvised, 16 Interior, 18 Catherine, 20 Outdoor, 21 Conkers, 23 Style, 25 Extra, 26 Plot.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

CPISY

CRFEO

YLLGDA

MMLUEB

You know, this is a good thing! My talents were being wasted. I'm ready for the next chapter in my career.
That's the spirit!
AFTER BEING LET GO FROM HIS JOB UNEXPECTEDLY, HE WAS ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: ABACK UNWED FAULTY COARSE
Answer: When the teacher explained why the sky looks blue, the reason was — CLEAR AS DAY

Telugu actor NT Rama Rao Jr's visit to Bengaluru turned chaotic after police resorted to a mild lathi-charge to disperse a large crowd of fans gathered to catch a glimpse of the star. The actor was in the city to inaugurate a private super-speciality hospital in Mahadevapura. A large number of fans had forced their way into the hospital premises. No serious injuries were reported

OVER-SPEEDING

Three youth die as car crashes into truck

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THREE youth died after their speeding car rammed into the rear of a truck, near Agara cross in the Kaggalipura police station limits, on Sunday. Four vehicles were damaged in the incident.

The deceased, Saif Pasha (22), who worked at a car interior garage, and Yusuf Khan (22), who worked at a furniture shop, were from Tilak Nagar. Azar Pasha (22), a painter was from Siddapura, Jayanagar.

Police said, the incident occurred around 1.15 am. A sedan (KA-01-MX-1007), driven by Saif Pasha, was heading towards Harohalli from Bengaluru along with his two friends.

Witness said, the car travelling at high speed, failed to notice a road hump and crashed into the rear of a cement-carrying truck. Saif died on the spot. The other two were severely injured and rushed to a nearby hospital, where they were declared brought dead. A speeding Honda City behind Saif's vehicle hit a yellow board car passing on the other lane. However, the three occupants of the Honda City sustained minor injuries.

The police said that Saif, along with his two friends, was going to visit his father's grave in Harohalli when the accident occurred. The front portion of the car was completely mangled on impact. The Kaggalipura police have registered a case.

AUTO DRIVER HELD FOR SETTING PARTNER, HER PARENTS ABLAZE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 29-year-old autorickshaw driver was arrested by the Soladevanahalli police for allegedly trying to kill his live-in partner and her parents by pouring petrol on them and setting them on fire following a trivial row. The incident occurred near their house in Tarabanahalli on Friday.

The accused has been identified as Panduranga alias Chandu. The injured are Sumalatha (27) and her parents Sriram (48) and Manjamma (42), residents of Tarabanahalli.

According to the police, Sumalatha, a domestic worker, had married Hanumayya in 2015, and the couple have two sons. About five to six years into the marriage, she became acquainted with Panduranga, and their friendship later developed into a romantic relationship. She eventually left her husband and started living with Panduranga in Nandini Layout. She has a baby girl with Panduranga. About a year ago, he reportedly fell in love with another woman and brought her home, leading to frequent quarrels between the couple.

Three months ago, Sumalatha left him and began staying at her parents' house in Tarabanahalli.

On Friday, Panduranga allegedly went to Sumalatha's house and demanded the key to a scooter. When she refused, an argument broke out between them and her parents tried to intervene. Enraged with this, Panduranga, who was carrying a bottle of petrol, allegedly poured it on Sumalatha. When her parents tried to stop him, he poured petrol on them as well and set the trio on fire with a lighter before fleeing the spot.

Neighbours rushed the injured to Victoria Hospital and alerted the police. The three sustained severe burns and are currently under treatment.

Police said the couple had frequent disputes, and the exact motive behind the attack is yet to be ascertained.

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KMF Toll free number : 1800 425 8030 | Email : customercare. nandini@kmf.coop

Friend behind robbery of realtor by fake cops: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Byadarahalli police, investigating the recent case in which two armed men posing as police personnel barged into a realtor's house and decamped with Rs 20 lakh and nearly 500 gm of gold jewellery, found that the victim's friend had allegedly masterminded the robbery and hired a parolee to execute the plan. The police have arrested three persons in connection with the case till now.

The victim, Hombale Gowda (53), a realtor and contractor from BEL Layout, had prepared property documents through his friend Bettegowda, a stamp vendor, while selling a site.

Knowing that Gowda had money from the proceeds of the site sale, Bettegowda allegedly hatched the plot and tipped off Nagendra, who had been released from jail on parole. Nagendra and his associate allegedly carried out the robbery on February 16.

The police said Nagendra rented a sub-inspector's uniform from Shivajinagar on the pretext of using it for a film shoot. Wearing the uniform, he and his associate entered Gowda's house and executed the robbery. Gowda was at home with his wife Mangalamma and their grandchildren at that time. The accused, all in police attire, told the family that they had come from the Yelahanka police station. As they were carrying a bag and a diary, the family believed them.

The accused then threatened the couple with a gun and a knife, tied their hands and legs, and ransacked the bedroom, making away with Rs 20 lakh cash and 500 gms of gold jewellery. The police had earlier arrested Nagendra and his associate Bachchan, who allegedly revealed Bettegowda's role in the conspiracy , during the interrogation The police arrested Bettegowda on Friday.

HC JUDGE INJURED IN CONVOY ACCIDENT

Bengaluru: Karnataka High Court judge Justice G Basavaraj sustained minor injuries, along with two police escort officers, after their convoy met with an accident near Rayarapalya on the Bengaluru–Tumakuru National Highway on Sunday morning. Nelamangala traffic police said, at around 7.30 am, a truck in front of the judge's convoy suddenly took a left turn. In an attempt to avoid the truck, the escort vehicle swerved to the right and hit the median. The car in which the judge was travelling collided with the escort vehicle. The police informed that all three are out of danger.

Recurring fires on Jnanabharathi campus raise concern

RASHMI PATIL @ Bengaluru

FOREST fires are not new to the Jnanabharathi Campus of Bangalore University, which spreads across more than 1,200 acres of forest with a wide variety of flora and fauna, including peacocks, rabbits, foxes and several species of birds. The campus is considered one of the key green lung spaces of Bengaluru.

With thousands of trees shedding dry leaves and dry grass growing across the campus, fires often break out when passersby discard burning cigarette butts or when grazers entering the campus set fire to dry leaves and grass.

However, there is no standby fire engine on the campus, and the administration has failed to put in place concrete measures to tackle the recurring problem over the years.

Fires often break out when passersby discard burning cigarette butts on campus

Dr TJ Renuka Prasad, who was involved in mapping biodiversity parks on the university campus and is a regular walker there, said, "To tackle this issue, our team had installed a few borewells, but they are not being utilised by the university administration now. Earlier, we also conducted training sessions in coordination with the fire department to teach students how to douse forest fires. These trained students later acted as volunteers. However, those training sessions have now stopped."

He added that there was once a fire station inside the campus, but it is no longer functioning. "The firefighters also do not have proper equipment to douse forest fires. Fire engines are large and cannot easily enter the narrow roads inside the forest areas of the campus," he said.

He further said that the department does not have jeep-mounted or bike-mounted fire engines. "Security guards try to warn people against throwing cigarette butts and prevent grazers from entering the campus. In emergencies, the administration should store water in large drums to use for dousing fires. During the last fire incident, the administration and firefighters used water stored in such drums," he said.

Prof C Somashekar, Acting Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, said, "We were able to successfully douse the fire that broke out recently due to a discarded cigarette butt. Our security guards are vigilant, but the campus is vast and they cannot monitor every part of the forest. Since the fire station is located close to the campus, firefighters were able to reach quickly and put out the blaze."

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (acting in capacity as Trustee for the below mentioned Trusts)** (hereinafter referred to as **"ARCIL"**) is incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 and registered as an Asset Reconstruction Company with the Reserve Bank of India of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of security interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the SARFAESI Act") and whereas the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No.2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from **Jana Small Finance Bank,** the Original Lenders and whereas **ARCIL** has acquired the financial assets relating to the loan accounts mentioned herein below and whereas **ARCIL** being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act,and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons.

LAN No./ Name of Original Lender/ Demand Notice Date/ Name of the Trust	Borrower/ Co-Borrower Name	Total Outstanding in INR as per Demand Notice Date
LAN: 46659630001051 **Original Lender:** Jana Small Finance Bank Date of Demand Notice: **20.11.2025** **Name of the Trust:** Arcil-2025-17-Trust	Harish P/ Papanna/ Divya A	**Rs.4,96,355.83** (Rupees Four Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Five and Eighty Three Paisa Only)

Description of the Property: Property Details: All the piece and parcel of the property bearing form 09 and 11A Assessment No.151, E-Katha No.150300200200620036, situated at Gollahalli Village comes within the purview of Bijjawara Grama Panchayath, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District Measuring East-West 11.06424 Mtrs, North-South 9.05256 Mtrs, totally measuring 100.16 Sq.mtrs and **Bounded on: East by:** Property of Muniraju, **West by:** Property of Poojamma, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Own Property.

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, within **60 days** of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, **ARCIL** shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by **Arcil** at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.

Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place: Bangalore Rural
Date: 09.03.2026
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited
(In capacity as Trustee)

ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD.
Registered Office: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (W), Mumbai-400028.
CIN No.: U65999MH2002PLC134884; Website:www.arcil.co.in; Tel: +91 2266581300

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BANGALORE
4th Floor, BSNL Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru- 560 001
Original Application No.311/2025

Between : **STATE BANK OF INDIA,** Kumara Park West, Sheshadripuram (Lending Branch), Represented by its Chief Manager, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, (SARB), Mr. Nagaraja V., J. C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002 , Email ID : sbi.05173@ sbi.co.in, PAN No.AAACS 8577K, IFSC Code : SBIN000 5173, Mobile No. 9448441455 **...Applicant**

AND

Mr. Mahesh Gadiraju & Another ....Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANT No. 2 THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To : M/s. GVR Constructions, Representede by its Proprietor Sri Gadiraju Vasu S/o. Sri Chenchu Raju, Office at : No. 3, Venkateswara Layout, Near Nester Raaga Appt., Mahadevapura, Bangalore - 560 048. **...Defendant**

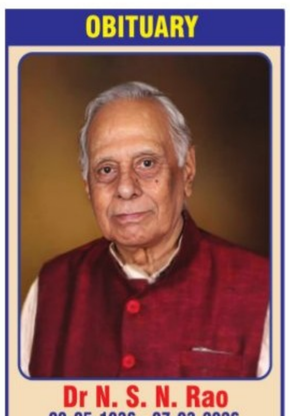
WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against Defendant for Recovery sum of **Rs.36,59,879.28** (RupeesThirty Six Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Nine and Paise Twenty Eight Only) The above mentioned Defendant is directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorised agent in support of your defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **09.04.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

3.Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on this the **28.11.2025** at Bangalore.

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bengaluru

OBITUARY



Dr N. S. N. Rao
09-05-1936 - 07-03-2026

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Dr N. S. N. Rao, a beloved husband, brother, father, grandfather, teacher, and guide, whose life was defined by kindness, quiet wisdom, and an enduring love for learning. A lifelong educator, teaching was not merely his profession but his true calling. Over the course of his career, he shaped the minds of countless students and made a meaningful contribution to the field of Biostatistics, earning the respect and admiration of colleagues and students alike. He was the first to introduce the teaching of Biostatistics in medical colleges in India and authored one of the earliest books on the subject. To his family, he was lovingly known as Nani, Anna, and Tatha, the heart of the family whose warmth and gentle presence brought joy to all who knew him. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

Deeply mourned by
Nandagudi Family and near & dear ones

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -2 AT BANGALORE
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House ,Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001

Case No. O.A. No.2548/2025

Between: State Bank of India, SARB, Bangalore ...Applicant

And

Mr. Gautam Prakash ....Defendant

To

1. Mr. Gautam Prakas, S/o. Mr. Satendra Kumar, No. 81/12, 1st Floor, Royal Placid Layout, Phase-1, HSR Layout, Off Harlur Road, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 103.

Also at : Mr. Gautam Prakas, S/o. Mr. Satendra Kumar, Capgemini Technology Services, RMZ ECOWORLD SEZ, 6th Floor, Campus SB, ORR, Devarabisanahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 103.

Also at : Mr. Gautam Prakas, S/o. Mr. Satendra Kumar, 1/28, Flat No. 34, 3rd Floor, Dwaraka Sector-7, New Delhi, India - 110075.

Also at : Mr. Gautam Prakas, S/o. Mr. Satendra Kumar, Flat No . F-06, Sai Ashirwad Lake View, 1st Floor, Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 068.

Alos at : Mr. Gautam Prakas, S/o. Mr. Satendra Kumar, D-1-29, Flat No. 4a, 4th Floor, Palam, Kunj, Sector-7, D Block, Ramphal Chowk, Dwarka Sector-7, South West Delhi, India - 110077. **...Defendant**

SUMMONS ISSUED TO THE DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of The Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions, Act 1993, against the above defendants for te recoery of sum of **Rs.33,25,836/-** (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Six Only) together with current and future interest, cost, cost and other reliefs.

The above Defendant is therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **09.04.2026 at 10.30 a.m.**, as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 24.02.2026.

By the Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar-2
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 ,
Bangalore

BANGALORE GOLF CLUB
No.2, Sankey Road, High Grounds, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of the members of the Club will be held on Monday the **30th March, 2026 at 4.00 p.m** at the New Club House premises to transact the business mentioned in the notice dated: 04.03.2026

By order of the Managing Committee
Sd/-
Place: Bengaluru
Date : 09.03.2026
Anand Srinivasan S.
Hon. Secretary

QuoteExpress
IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE › NELSON MANDELA

GMDC Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.

TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender Notice :- RFP/BW/02/2025-26

Request for Proposal for Design, Engineering, Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of 11KV Overhead lines, CSS, outdoor LT Boards, DG Sets, & high masts with civil constructions on turnkey basis and 8-year Comprehensive O&M at GMDC Baitarani-West Mine, Odisha.

GMDC intends to appoint experienced and qualified agency for the captioned work. The RFP document will be available for download from **09/03/2026** at **www.gmdcltd.com** and **https://gmdctender.nprocure.com.**

General Manager (Coal Projects)

EXPLORING LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES
Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Gujarat Enterprise)
Khanij Bhawan, 132 Feet Ring Road,
Near University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad-380052

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | **Registered Office:** The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mrs. Mamatha S (Co-Borrower & Legal Heir of Borrower Deceased Mr. Chandra Kumar N), Also at: Radix HR Solution Pvt. Lmtd. (Director)	Loan Account No. 45349430000452 Loan Amount: Rs.34,99,136/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Apartment bearing No. B-207 in the Second Floor, Block-'B' in the multistore building known as 'KRISHNAGEET SHELTERS" formed in Sy.No.41/4, in all measuring 61338 Sq.ft, having Super built up area 1400 Sq.ft, together with the one covered car parking space No.B-207 in the basement along with Undivided Share, right, title interest in the Schedule 'A' Property measuring to an extent of 0.815% equivalent to 500 Sq.ft., situated at B.Narayanapura Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under BBMP Limits and **Bounded on: East by:** Remaining portion of property bearing Sy.No.41/4 owned by C.Ashok, **West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Road and Private Property, **South by:** Private Property	Date of NPA: 10-03-2025 Demand Notice Date: 06-03-2026	**Rs.27,70,298.14** (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Eight and Fourteen Paisa Only) **due as on 04-03-2026**

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 09.03.2026, Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

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JANATHA SEVA CO-OP BANK LTD.,
No. 24, Suvarna Bhavana, 1st Main Road, Hampinagara, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560104.
Phone No.: 23300497, 41159606, 23359600 Email: vjn@jscbl.com

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1)] (For Immovable Properties)

W hereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Janatha Seva Co-Op Bank Ltd.,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice dated **01.09.2025** calling upon the **Borrower: 1. Sri, Basavaraju B.** S/o Bhadraiah, and **Smt. Annapurna B**. W/o Basavaraju B, both are residing at No.1102, 4th Main, 5th Stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar,, Bengaluru 560098 to repay the Amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.41,20,054/- (Rupees Fourty One Lakhs Twenty Thousand and Fifty Four Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Sri, Basavaraju B. S/o Bhadraiah

Smt. Annapurna B. W/o Basavaraju B

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **03rd day of March the year 2026.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Janatha Seva Co-Op Bank Ltd., Rajarajeswari Nagar Branch Bangalore, for Loan No. BL-77 for an amount of Rs.36,11,833/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Three Only)** as on **02.03.2026** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

(Details of Hypothecated assets and details of mortgaged properties of the Borrower)

(Property Belongings to Smt. Annapurna B. W/o. Basavaraju B).

The immovable property bearing No.73, Situated at Sy No.16/1, Khatha No. 1458/1381/1440/73 of Mylasandra Village, Kengeri Hobli, BEML Layout 7th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and measuring East to West: 50-0 ft and North to South:30-0 ft in all measuring 1500 sq ft and bounded on : East By : Road, West By : Site No. 88, North By : Site No. 74 , South By : Site No. 72.

Date : 03.03.2026
Place : Bengaluru
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Janatha Seva Co-Op Bank Ltd

"BJP has nothing to do, except to criticise Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, me, Priyank Kharge, Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. Everyone knows the work done when our government was in power. It was we who built the Gadag-Wadi railway line, roads and highways, not you," AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge said

Many parts of the state are likely to witness drinking water shortage despite having a bountiful monsoon last year. The annual ritual is on — new borewells are being dug, the old ones are rejuvenated, and tankers kept ready. But what matters most is conservation. Every drop can be a lifesaver. While the state waits for the dark rain-bearing clouds, The New Indian Express presents dispatches from districts to keep the authorities "well-informed"

DROPS OF LIFE, USE WATER RESPONSIBLY

BENGALURU gearing up to meet water challenge

WITH copious rainfall in 2025, KRS and Kabini reservoirs currently hold comfortable water levels, easing concerns over water shortage. At the same time, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has begun preparations for the summer. In January, the board requested Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd to reserve 11 tmcft of water until July.

Bengaluru requires roughly 2 tmcft per month to meet the needs of its 1.5-crore population, officials said, noting that the onset of monsoon in June and possible summer showers should stabilise the situation. As of the second week of February, the reservoirs together stored 52.39 tmcft, with KRS at 117 ft against its full capacity of 124 ft, according to CCNL officials.

Authorities and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also water resources minister, have reviewed the preparedness. BWSSB has identified 65 water-stressed wards due to groundwater depletion and pipeline damage. Measures include mandatory use of treated water for construction, expanding tanker supply under Sanchari Cauvery, maintaining 60 water storage tanks with a capacity of 2,000 litre, providing new piped connections and fining those misusing drinking water, have been taken.

Mangaluru has reserves for 39 days only

Mangaluru city is staring at a potential drinking water crisis as forecasts point to an intense summer and a likely delay in the onset of monsoon. At present, the Thumbay vented dam has a reserve to meet the city's demand for about 39 days. If inflows into the Netravathi declines further and rain is delayed, water rationing may be introduced across the city.

To manage the current situation, authorities plan to temporarily disconnect electricity supply to agricultural and horticultural pumpsets near the riverbed to prioritise drinking water needs, in coordination with MESCOM.

Additionally, around 50 MLD of water from the Adyar dam will be released daily to maintain levels at Thumbay. Provisions have also been made for back-pumping water from Adyar to Thumbay using 13 pumps, as was done in April and May 2023-24.

District in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has directed officials to monitor reservoir levels and ensure minimal disruption in supplies. The Mangalore City Corporation has 140 borewells, with more being drilled. Cleaning and repair of open wells are under way, and around 15 tankers are supplying water to elevated areas.

Tankers already pressed into action in Dharwad

Despite having enough water reserves in both Malaprabha and Neersagar reservoirs, Hubballi-Dharwad twin cities and other parts of the district always face a drinking water problem during summer. This year too, authorities have organised a series of meetings to rejuvenate borewells, fill lakes and arrange tankers to supply water. People are facing water scarcity due to the ongoing 24x7 supply network project, as there are a lot of complaints about its implementation.

Deputy Commissioner Snehal R said the data is being collected, and as of now, over 50 tankers have been pressed to supply water to areas facing problems, and borewells are being flushed out. Officials are keeping tabs and updating higher-ups on the drinking water status. The district requires 245 MLD, while the availability is around 222 MLD. The shortage of 40-plus MLD will be the challenge.

Administration remains upbeat in Shivamogga

Shivamogga district is expected to manage the drinking water supply situation. Zilla Panchayat CEO Hemanth said that a few villages are expected to face drinking water scarcity, but still, they are in a manageable state.

Gram panchayat funds of the 15th Finance Commission and their own tax collection are used to drill borewells, reflush or redrill the old ones, based on the gravity of the situation, he added.

He said the first pre-monsoon shower in March will help analyse the summer situation for the next two months. "We can easily manage drinking water up to April-end. If rainfall commences from May, there will not be any drinking water shortage in any village. Out of 1,530 villages in the district, a maximum of 30 villages may face drinking water shortage, which is also a 0.001 percent possibility, which is manageable," he added.

Concern over contamination of water bodies in Udupi

Even after evaporation of water in water bodies across the district, the situation seems to be manageable in Udupi district. Udupi CMC Commissioner Mahantesh Hangaragi said drinking water would be available till May-end. Since additional water comes from the Varahi river to Udupi city, the situation can be managed till June-end. "We are reducing the intake from the Baje dam so that we can save it beyond June," he said.

Zilla Panchayat CEO Prateek Bayal said that as of now, there is no shortage of water in rural parts of the district. "We have done the vulnerability mapping and are giving it a final touch. We will be able to manage the situation," he said.

In 2025, though water scarcity was witnessed in parts of the district by mid-April, rainfall in May solved the shortage issue.

Meanwhile, concerns are expressed over contamination of open wells due to mindless discharge of wastewater in Udupi city. Several wells in Nittur, Bailakere, Beedinagudde, Kalmady bridge area, Shivapady, among other places, are contaminated in the absence of a proper underground drainage (UGD) system in the city.

Vijayapura unlikely to face scarcity

With adequate water available in the Almatti dam, implementation of the Multi Village Scheme (MVS), Jala Dhare and filling up of tanks, the district is not expected to face any drinking water scarcity this year.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr Audra said, "We have received no demand for water from tankers. An adequate water reserve is available in the Almatti dam, which is being used to supply all drinking water projects in urban and rural areas. | We will not face water shortage till the beginning of June when the monsoon enters the district."

The district has over 640 villages, connected with various water supply schemes such as MVS and Jala Dhare. Officials said no village will face scarcity so severe that they will have to depend on tankers.

Soaring mercury level a concern in Kalaburagi

Though the district received excess rainfall last monsoon, some villages and a few wards in Kalaburagi city could face drinking water problems, because demand might increase with the sharp increase in mercury levels during summer.

Officials said that of 918 villages in the district, 286 may face drinking water scarcity. More than half the villages in Aland and Afzalpur taluks might face drinking water problems. Of 136 villages in Aland taluk, 72 villages and of 93 villages in Afzalpur taluk, 60 might face drinking water crisis. Of the 143 villages in Kalaburagi taluk, 53 might face drinking water crises.

BIG PICTURE

Sources said the district administration has made arrangements to tackle the crisis. Of the total 1,227 borewells in the district, 754 are functioning, and 308 new ones could be drilled.

KUIDFC Superintending Engineering RP Jadhav said that one water tanker each has been kept in reserve for all the 56 wards of Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike.

Precautionary measures in place in Ballari

As many as 83 villages in Ballari district are likely to face acute drinking water shortages if rain fails, prompting the district administration to initiate emergency preventive measures. In a recent meeting to review the situation, Deputy Commissioner Nagendra Prasad K directed officials to ensure that there is no scarcity of drinking water in the coming months.

The DC said officers are directed to take steps immediately to ensure an uninterrupted drinking water supply in all vulnerable villages and to identify government borewells in water-stressed areas and carry out repairs wherever required. Private borewells are being mapped and kept ready for emergency use. In cases where no viable water sources exist, priority would be given to drilling new borewells.

The district currently has 504 RO plants, of which 454 are functional. The remaining 54 units will be made functional soon. Water tankers in both urban and rural areas will be kept on standby to handle emergencies. The condition of tankers must also be reviewed to ensure operational readiness, he added.

24x7 scheme not bringing respite in Gadag

Facing paucity of drinking water is a regular phenomenon in Gadag district. Despite implementing the 24x7 drinking water project, a large number of houses in Gadag town have not got connection. Though water is drawn from the Tungabhadra dam, constraints in the supply have bothered people. Gadag-Betageri areas get water once every 12 days.

Tanks in Ron and Gajendragad taluk will soon be filled with water. While nearly 20 lakes have already been filled with water, six will be filled this week. Water is being lifted from the Malaprabha reservoir in Savadatti and water shortage is unlikely this year. In Naragund taluk, residents will not have any problem as they get water from Malaprabha too.

But some areas in Gadag town, like Gangimadi and other extensions, are still dependent on tankers. Gadag Betageri Municipal Council officials said they will solve the issue as soon as possible. Irrigation Department officials said, "Since there is no technical issue in lifting bulk water from the river, there will be no issue related to drinking water supply to Gadag Betageri residents".

No immediate challenge in Belagavi

Officials clarified that there is no immediate drinking water shortage in Belagavi district. Minor disruptions in some areas are due to pipeline works under the 24x7 drinking water project in the city and Jal Jeevan Mission in rural areas. Authorities said the water supply will be streamlined soon, and no tanker supply has been required so far.Meanwhile, a recent leakage at the Hippargi Barrage caused a loss of nearly 3 tmcft of water, leaving about 2 tmcft in storage. Officials fear water shortage in Athani and Raibag taluks after April 15 if negotiations are not done with officials of Maharashtra to release additional water from their storage.

Hassan city requires 40.5 million litre per day

Residents of Hassan city and Arsikere, Channarayapatna, Holenarasipur and Belur towns get drinking water supply through Atal mission for rejuvenation and urban transformation (AMRUTH) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes. Hassan city requires 40.5 million litre per day (MLD) and over 95 percent of it is supplied by Hemavathi water in Hassan city. Approximately, one lakh people depend on borewell water.

Sources said the Karnataka urban water supply department has appointed a company for the maintenance of AMRUTH scheme. Unfortunately, poor maintenance of motors to pump water and frequent short-circuits in 750 KV generators lead to poor water supply for many wards in Hassan city. An official in the Hassan City Corporation said it sent a proposal recently for Rs 2 crore to provide surface drinking water to the Hassan City Corporation limits and also some 25 adjacent villages.

Hemavathi, Cauvery and Yagachi rivers are the water sources for Jal Jeevan Mission in the district. Under JJM, every citizen will get 55 litres of water per day and it has been completed in Holenarasipur, Arasikere, Belur, Channarayapatna, Alur and Arkalgud taluks. Chief Executive Officer BR Poornima said a task force has been formed to tackle the drinking water crisis in summer.

Dammaningala, Kalenahalli and Janivara villages in Channarayapatna taluk and four villages in Belur taluk may face acute shortage of drinking water. Private borewells have been hired to tackle the situation. All the 4,35,244 rural households are expected to get tap connections by 2026-end, she said.

(With inputs from Mohammed Yacoob in Bengaluru, Vincent D'Souza in Mangaluru, Mallikarjun Hiremath in Dharwad, Arpitha I in Shivamogga, Prakash Samaga in Udupi, Firoz Rozindar in Vijayapura, Ramkrishna Badseshi in Kalaburagi, Kiran Balannanvar in Ballari, Raghu Koppar in Gadag, Sunil Patil in Belagavi and BR Udaya Kumar in Hassan)

DAVANAGERE SOUTH BYPOLL

Mahima meets Nitish, wants to be NDA candidate

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Janata Dal (United) president Mahima J Patel, son of former chief minister JH Patel, called on Bihar CM Nitish Kumar in Patna, Bihar, on Sunday and staked a claim to contest as NDA candidate for the bypolls to Davanagere South Assembly constituency. The seat fell vacant following the demise of senior Congress leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa.

Mahima is likely to meet HD Deve Gowda and convey Nitish's message of holding deliberations with the former PM to strengthen the JDU-JDS bond.

Mahima, along with state JDU general secretary Chandrashekar Gangur, met a host of JDU leaders, including the party's national general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Manish Kumar Verma, Bihar ministers Vijay Kumar Chaudhary and Ramnath Thakur, and MoS for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, JDU national working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, and MLA Damodar Ravat during his two-day visit to Patna.

Karnataka Janata Dal (United) chief Mahima Patel greets party supremo and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Patna on Sunday

"Nitish Kumar has promised that he will speak with national BJP leaders on the alliance in the bypolls, especially in Davanagere South," Mahima told TNIE over phone, adding that he will make a comeback to electoral politics as there is pressure from his sympathisers.

Mahima said that the JDU may also seek certain seats in the 2028 Karnataka Assembly polls as the party is part of the NDA. Mahima further claimed that a few leaders who are not on good terms with the state unit of the BJP are keen on joining the JDU.

It may be recalled here that when the Janata Dal split in 1999, Deve Gowda floated the JDS opposing the decision to enter into an alliance with the BJP. But the Sharad Yadav faction of Janata Dal joined the NDA and became the JDU.

Ahead of the 2028 Assembly polls, all the anti-Congress political outfits are planning to step up a united front under the leadership of Deve Gowda to defeat the Ruling Congress, said informed sources.

DKS slams Centre over LPG price rise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru, Kalaburagi

KARNATAKA Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has criticised the NDA government following the recent Rs 60 increase in the price of domestic LPG cylinders, calling it an example of shifting financial pressure onto ordinary citizens. "The Union Government always puts all the burden on the common man," Shivakumar, who is also Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee chief, said in Kalaburagi on Sunday.

His remarks came in response to the price revision announced by oil marketing companies, effective from March 7, amid the tensions in West Asia.

Speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony for various development projects in Kalaburagi, Shivakumar highlighted several infrastructure and welfare initiatives undertaken by the State Government. Along with the government's five guarantee schemes, Shivakumar said that the administration has also ensured land and housing support for the poor.

Shivakumar further stated that the government plans to rejuvenate more than 400 lakes to strengthen irrigation facilities. Under the Education Department, the state has decided to establish 2,000 Karnataka Public Schools, of which 330 will be located in the Kalyana Karnataka region. He also announced that the state government plans to fill around 2.5 lakh vacant government posts in phases, adding that steps have already been initiated to recruit more than 56,000 employees. Shivakumar said the State Government spends over Rs 52,000 crore annually on its guarantee schemes to improve the lives of people.

Praising state minister Priyank Kharge, Shivakumar described him as a "future leader" of Karnataka.

He said Priyank Kharge has been performing exceptionally well under the guidance of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and has been working effectively for the development of the state and the welfare of all communities.

We plan to rejuvenate more than 400 lakes to strengthen irrigation. The state has decided to establish 2,000 KPS of which 330 will be located in Kalyana Karnataka region — DK Shivakumar, Deputy CM

A health inspector at Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation was caught red-handed by the Lokayukta police while accepting a bribe of Rs 4,500. The officer, Heena Kousar, had demanded the bribe from an applicant, Maleppa Talwar, to issue a licence to run a roti machine

Hope for 33% quota for women in 2032-33: HDK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

UNION Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries **HD Kumaraswamy** on Sunday hoped that the 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies would be implemented in 2032-33, throwing an opportunity for a woman to become the state's chief minister.

"The 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies will further enhance the prestige of the Parliamentary system in the coming days. According to the information I have, women's reservation may be implemented in 2032-33," Kumaraswamy, a former CM of Karnataka, said at a JDS convention held to mark International Women's Day.

"If 33% women's reservation is implemented, there will be 75 women MLAs in the Karnataka Assembly. If women from all parties want, then a woman can become the CM. Such an opportunity will be possible through reservation," he said, while giving the credit for the 33 per cent quota bill being passed to PM Narendra Modi.

"The one who dreamt of it was former PM HD Deve Gowda as he has done a lot of work for women. It was Deve Gowda who gave 50% reservation for women in local body elections. In 1996, after he became the PM, he introduced a Bill in the Rajya Sabha to give 33% reservation to women. However, the bill was not passed in the Lok Sabha due to the lack of support from the Samajwadi Party and RJD. Now, it has been passed, and PM Modi has given women the opportunity to grow bigger in politics," he said.

Meanwhile, Gowda stated that the 33% women's reservation will come into effect if the delimitation of constituencies proceeds smoothly and called for more women from the JDS to contest the polls for the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

"Many women will get tickets to contest the polls. I had worked hard for the 33% women's reservation. Modi gave a final shape. I congratulate Modi wholeheartedly for this," he said.

Fissure surfaces in NDA as JDS MLA says HDK will be CM candidate

BENGALURU: FISSURES have begun to appear in the BJP-JDS alliance in Karnataka, with several JDS leaders, including legislators, claiming that their leader, HD Kumaraswamy, will be the CM candidate irrespective of the alliance. "If Kumaraswamy is declared the CM candidate, we (the alliance) will win 140-150 seats. Our CM candidate will be Kumaraswamy. Also, tell me who your party (BJP) CM candidate is?", Gurmitkal JDS MLA Sharanagouda Kandakur told reporters on Sunday. The MLA alleged a lack of coordination between the two parties as the BJP went all alone in protesting against the recent state budget. "We love the BJP, but they do not love us. They said that we won 19 seats in the Lok Sabha polls owing to the alliance. We used to hold coordination meetings during the session. However, yesterday, nothing came from the BJP regarding holding a coordination meeting. They informed us about the protest only 30 minutes before the agitation. The national leaders of the BJP have love and affection towards us. The people of the state want Kumaraswamy to become the CM," Kandakur said. "Ex-PM HD Deve Gowda said that Modi will decide about the CM," he suggested. **ENS**

BELAGAVI POCSO VERDICT

Man gets 37-year RI, ₹1.25L fine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

A court in Belagavi has sentenced a 22-year-old man to 37 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 1.25 lakh in a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) case.

Kakati police said that the accused, Rutesh Anil Bosale, a resident of Kangrali (BK), Belagavi, committed the offence on June 1, 2025. Police said the accused lured a minor girl by promising her sweets on the day of school results and took her to his empty house. He allegedly sexually assaulted her and threatened to kill her if she reported the incident.

Police said Rutesh later repeated the crime again, at his house during a school holiday. The accused was arrested on June 10, 2025. The District and Sessions Court, Belagavi, Special Court judge CM Pushpalatha delivered the verdict on March 6, 2026, awarding the sentence and fine.

DOWNTOWN DAZZLE

On the occasion of International Women's Day, women participate in the 'Nari Shakti Ride 2026', a special bike rally organised in collaboration with Motherhood Hospital, in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS READ

Fashion designer held in lodge theft case

BELAGAVI: The Tilakwadi police arrested Deepa Mahalinga Avatagi (33), a fashion designer from Hukkeri, for stealing at two lodges- Coastal Empire Lodging and Amit Deluxe Lodging. Police recovered property worth Rs 32.86 lakh, and seized 11 mobile phones, a Samsung tablet, a Wi-Fi dongle, three car keys, cash amounting to Rs 14,000, and important documents. A Toyota Fortuner worth Rs 25 lakh and a Maruti Suzuki S-Cross worth Rs 7 lakh were also recovered. **ENS**

'Everyone knows work done when we were in power'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"BJP has nothing to do, except to criticise Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, me, Priyank Kharge, Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. Everyone knows the work done when our government was in power. It was we who built the Gadag-Wadi railway line, roads and highways, not you," Kharge told BJP.

"We implemented Article 371J (providing special status to the Kalyana Karnataka region). Then Home Minister LK Advani from BJP did not respond to our demand. Article 371J will not benefit me, my children and grandchildren, but the common man. Today, it is helping students get a mechanical engineering seat," he said.

He said it makes him proud that an MLA from Chittapur (his son Priyank Kharge) raises his voice and speaks about problems of the people of the entire country.

Project Active Involvement in Sanitation and Hygiene Awareness (AISHA), a student-led initiative by the B Com (International Finance) students at Christ University, continues its mission to improve menstrual hygiene access for girls across India. The project supports SDG 3, SDG 5 and SDG 6 by promoting health, dignity and equal opportunity. This year, the team donated 25,000 sanitary pads to over 200 girls, providing a one-year supply. The donations were made to Need Base India and Prerana Resource Centre.

Girl student among injured in hostel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A girl student was also among the injured in the rampage.

Police sources indicated that the assault was over a minor dispute, though the exact motive remains under investigation.

The incident raised serious concerns over safety, supervision and negligence in the management of the residential school.

A complaint was filed, leading to an FIR, registered under appropriate sections of the law against the 15-year-old accused and the educational institution's administrative body for alleged negligence.

Authorities assured a thorough investigation with emphasis on child protection protocols given the involvement of minors.

The incident sent shockwaves through the local community and sparked renewed calls for stricter supervision in educational facilities across the state. The body of the deceased student was handed over to his parents after the postmortem.

Siddu attends Kambala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mangaluru

AFTER a hectic schedule of preparing and presenting the budget, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was found relaxing, watching Kambala in Mangaluru on Saturday.

Speaking at the 15th Muduru-Padooru Jodukare Kambala at Kudibail in Navoor village in Bantwal taluk, the Chief Minister said that the State government is committed to supporting the coastal traditional sport with adequate financial support.

"Kambala is a traditional sport that is also popular. In Kambala, people from different faiths participate, and the organisers have expressed their desire to hold the event in Mysuru as well. We have a responsibility to preserve it and popularise it among the youth," he said.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001. **E-Mail id:** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Phone:** 0435-2432322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746

TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.39,24,833/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Three only)** as on **04-03-2026** together with further interest to be charged from **05-03-2026** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. Mamatha Engineering Industries, No.K-16/A, 15th Cross, Lakshminarayanapuram, Bangalore - 560021. No.2) Mr. R. Bhaskar, S/o. R. Ramalingam, No.12/91-2, 1st Main Road, New Kalappa Block, Ramachandrapuram, Bangalore - 560021. No.3) Mrs. B. Saraswathi, W/o. R. Bhaskar, No.12/91-2, 1st Main Road, New Kalappa Block, Ramachandrapuram, Bangalore - 560021.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mr. R. Bhaskar, S/o. R. Ramalingam)

The Site and Superstructure now Existing and to be put up thereon in future at, All that Piece and Parcel of the Property Bearing Plot No.99 (PID No.075/W0008-80 (Old No.13-41-99), Situated at Old Property Nos.20 & 21, Assessment No.27, Laggere Village, Yeshwanthapur Hubli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Situated at 99, 12th Main Road, J.C.Nagar, Kurabarahalli, Mahalakshmipuram Post, Bangalore - 560086 and with all the easementary within the Following Boundaries : East by : Property No.19, West by : Property No.22, North by : Property Nos.12 & 13, South by : Road. Measuring : East to West - 60 Feet and North to South - 40 Feet in all having an area 2,400 Sq.Ft. together with Building thereon.

Reserve Price : Rs.2,64,00,000/-
(Rupees Two Crore Sixty Four Lakh only)

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. R. Bhaskar, S/o. R. Ramalingam)

The Site and Superstructure Now Existing and to be Put up thereon in future at, All that Piece and Parcel of the Property Bearing Site No.12, Property No.21, Formed in Survey No.28, Situated at 15th Cross Road, J C Nagar, Yeshwanthapura Hubli, Bangalore North Taluk, Measuring : East to West - 40 Feet and North to South - 30 Feet in all 1,200 Sq.Ft. together with building constructed thereon and Bounded on the Following : East by : Road, West by : Site No.30, North by : Site No.20, South by : Site No.22

Reserve Price : Rs.1,49,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Forty Nine Lakh only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
17-04-2026	**City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Rajaji Nagar Branch,** No.1002/55, KRK Chambers, Ist Main, 4th Block, 80 Feet Dr. Rajkumar Road, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban - 560010. Telephone No.080-23155151, Cell Nos.9379757170, 9379101515, 8925964904.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Rajaji Nagar Branch, No.1002/55, KRK Chambers, Ist Main, 4th Block, 80 Feet Dr. Rajkumar Road, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban - 560010. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-23155151, Cell Nos.9379757170, 9379101515, 8925964904. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the Sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bidsor postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 07-03-2026 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	46459410000503 46459630001338 & 46459410001890	1) Mr. Prakasha, 2) Mrs. Geetha	20.12.2025 Rs.10,12,114.66 (Rupees Ten Lakh Twelve Thousand One Hundred Fourteen and Sixty Six Paisa Only) due as on 11-12-2025	Date: 05-03-2026 Time: 03:24 PM Symbolic Possession

Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel of the property bearing No.85/2, Sl.No.348, Situated at Khajihosahalli Village, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Presently comes under the limits of Khajihosahalli Gram Panchayath, and **Bounded by the: East by:** Own Property, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Own Property, **South by:** Own Property. Measuring East to West: 33 Feet and North to South: 25 Feet.

Whereas the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore Rural | **Sd/- Authorised Officer,**
Date: 09.03.2026 | **For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

TOWN PANCHYATH, TEKKALAKOTE
Siruguppa(Tq) Ballari (Dist)
E-mail ID: - ka.tekkalakote.tp@gmail.com **Phone:-08396 248228**
Website: www.tekkalakotetown.mrc.gov.in

No:TPT/WORK/15thfin/2025-26 Dated: 07.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief officer, Town Panchyath, Tekkalakote invites tenders in KW-4 Double Cover system using Standard Tender Bid Document from Eligible contractors for 2023-24,2024-25,2025-26th 15th finance tied grant & 2021-22 15th fin NMPC Grant Project in TP Tekkalakote of Ballari District.

Sl. No	Indent No.	Description of work	Amount put to tender
	2023-24,2024-25,2025-26th 15th finance tied grant & 2021-22 15th fin NMPC Grant		
1	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_ INDENT 43302	Construction of Vehicle shed, Reusable solid waste Store room, Toilet and other Infrastructures for Solid waste management Staff at Tekkalakote Limits	150.00

Contractors shall download and submit the tenders through portal at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Earnest money Deposit (EMD) and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of events and other information are as follows;

Period of construction	As per K P P Portal
Last date for Submission of Tender Document.	09/03/2026 to 23/03/2026 up to 5.30 Pm
Date of opening of tenders (technical bids)	25/03/2026 @ 11.00 AM
Date of opening of tenders (financial bids)	30/03/2026 @ 11.00 AM

Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal and will not be published in news papers.

Sd/- **Chief officer** **Town Panchyath Tekkalakote**

Sd/- **Administor** **Town Panchyath Tekkalakote**

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XPRESS FOCUS

The Multifaceted Journey of Ramachandra Gowda S V: From Farmer to Entrepreneur to Public Leader

Ramachandra Gowda S V represents a rare blend of agricultural heritage, entrepreneurial drive, healthcare vision, and political commitment. A civil engineer by education and a progressive farmer by conviction, he has built a career that spans multiple sectors while remaining firmly rooted in public service. As District President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Chikkaballapur district of Karnataka, his work reflects a synthesis of grassroots engagement, business leadership, and a development-oriented outlook inspired by the leadership of Narendra Modi.

Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Innovation

Born on 20 July 1974 in Seekal village in Chintamani Taluk of Chikkaballapur district, Ramachandra Gowda grew up in a family deeply connected to agriculture. Farming was not merely a profession but a way of life that shaped his outlook and his respect for rural livelihoods.

Over the years, he has emerged as a progressive farmer known for introducing sustainable agricultural practices in drought-prone regions. Among his most impactful initiatives has been the construction of rural ponds for rainwater harvesting. These ponds have significantly improved water availability for surrounding farms while strengthening groundwater recharge across nearby villages.

His commitment to agriculture also extends to organic farming and experimentation with new crops and techniques. By advocating water conservation and environmentally responsible methods, he demonstrates how traditional agricultural knowledge can combine with modern practices to build resilient rural economies. Through these initiatives, he continues to inspire farmers to adopt sustainable approaches that protect the environment while enhancing productivity.

Dairy Innovation and the Seekal Farm Vision

At his agricultural estate in Seekal village, Ramachandra Gowda is nurturing an ambitious dairy venture that began with multi-breed cows, laying the groundwork for a technologically advanced dairy ecosystem.

His vision is to gradually scale the farm to nearly one thousand cows, integrating modern dairy management systems and precision technologies inspired by Israel's globally recognised dairy practices. With advanced monitoring, scientific feeding methods, and efficient water management, he aims to build a model dairy that balances productivity with sustainability.

The initiative also envisages value addition through a dedicated line of dairy products, reflecting his belief that the future of agriculture lies in integrated rural enterprises where farming, technology, and processing work together to create resilient livelihoods.

Entrepreneurship in the Interiors and Infrastructure Industry

Parallel to his agricultural pursuits, Ramachandra Gowda has built a strong entrepreneurial presence in the infrastructure and interiors sector. Drawing upon his civil engineering background, he has led ventures such as Sri Balaji Interiors, OBI Interiors (India) Pvt. Ltd., and SBI Ventures.

Under his leadership, these companies have undertaken several notable assignments across India. Among them are the design and execution of retail interiors for Vodafone outlets and major interior works connected with Terminal 1 at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.

These projects highlight his ability to manage complex engineering assignments while maintaining high standards of workmanship and efficiency. His work in the interiors industry reflects a combination of technical knowledge and entrepreneurial vision that has enabled him to successfully execute large-scale projects in both commercial and public infrastructure spaces.

Expanding Healthcare Access through TriLife Hospitals Pvt Ltd

Another defining dimension of Ramachandra Gowda's professional journey is his involvement in healthcare through TriLife Hospitals Pvt Ltd, which operates the multi-specialty Trilife Hospital network in Karnataka.

Under his strategic guidance, the institution has grown into a respected healthcare provider known for ethical medical practices and patient-centered care. Working alongside medical professionals such as Dr. Shafiq A. M. and Dr. Prashanth R., the hospital has steadily expanded its services while maintaining high clinical standards.

His healthcare vision also extends beyond hospitals. Ramachandra Gowda strongly believes that access to essential medicines can be as critical as access to treatment itself.

"One emergency medicine can save a life," he says. "That medicine must be available anytime, anywhere."

With this belief, he is pursuing an ambitious plan to establish round-the-clock pharmacy outlets that ensure uninterrupted access to medicines and healthcare essentials. His aim is to create a network of one hundred 24/7 pharmacies across Bengaluru and eventually one thousand outlets across India.

Equally important to him is the idea of giving people multiple healthcare choices. "I want to give people options - Allopathy, Ayurveda, orthopaedic aids, and cost-wise choices. Healthcare should not be restrictive," he emphasizes. This approach reflects his commitment to preventive care, affordability, and wider accessibility.

Political Leadership and Aspirations for Public Service

Ramachandra Gowda's commitment to public life runs alongside his professional achievements. His political journey began with a deep belief in the developmental vision of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Starting as a dedicated party karyakarta, he gradually rose through the ranks through consistent grassroots engagement and organizational leadership. His work draws inspiration from the governance philosophy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas."

In the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections, he contested as the BJP candidate from the Shidlaghatta Assembly constituency. During this period, he led an extensive membership campaign that enrolled nearly 56,000 new members in the constituency—one of the highest figures recorded among candidates across the state.

Today, as District President of the BJP in Chikkaballapur, he continues to focus on strengthening grassroots organization while prioritizing development initiatives that enhance rural infrastructure, expand economic opportunities for farmers and youth, and promote inclusive growth.

For more info, log on to: trilifehospital.com

A 40-year-old woman who sustained burn injuries after a candle accidentally caught fire while she was sleeping at her house in Alevoor village near Udupi died during treatment. The deceased has been identified as Bhagya

Firms get state GST notices, say being harassed

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

SEVERAL business establishments across Karnataka have received GST notices related to older tax filings and minor discrepancies from state tax authorities, said tax professionals.

Many notices are linked to records dating back four to six years, which are the early years of the GST, which was introduced in 2017, they said. Authorities may be sending such notices because of pressure to mobilise revenues before the financial year ends. Many of these notices relate to minor discrepancies, which are common in routine business operations, chartered accountants said.

Once a notice is issued, businesses are called for hearing where discrepancies in their filings are examined. Common issues cited in the notices include stock mismatches, errors in filing heads and compliance gaps under the Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM). Businesses in the hospitality sector have received notices related on rental transactions under RCM provisions.

Another concern is that some notices were allegedly issued offline rather than being recorded on the official GST portal. Some cases were resolved through discussions with assessing officers rather than formal proceedings, the tax professionals said. Many business owners prefer resolving the issue during the hearing stage instead of challenging the notice in court.

'Speak English on campus' remark by min fuels row

ACTIVISTS SAY THERE IS NO NEED TO PROMOTE ENGLISH SEPARATELY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dharwad

THE statement made by Higher Education Minister **MC Sudhakar** in Dharwad on Saturday has sparked controversy. He urged the newly appointed college principals to ensure that students speak in English on campus.

Emphasising the need to face future competition, the minister said language skills play an important role. However, the statement has drawn criticism from some sections. While addressing an event at the Higher Education Academy in the city, he made the remark, after which a few activists alleged that the minister was undermining the importance of the Kannada language. Activists said people who speak Kannada on college campuses can also face the competition, and there is no need to promote English separately.

An activist alleged that a few ministers have the mindset to change the system using the language, customs and others as tools. "We have to object or else in days to come the entire thing will change for the sake of getting opportunity and others. In future, it will be made compulsory in the state. We are fighting to see things in Kannada, but the government is doing differently," they added.

People who do not have any work try to pick these things for publicity and create issues. The minister never said to neglect the mother tongue, but his concern was that many people here know English but hesitate to speak. Asking to speak in English on the campus, at least for a few hours, will give students confidence," a Congress leader said.

"Those who want to choose will speak. There is nothing wrong with the statement given by the minister," he added.

INTERNAL QUOTA

BJP plans C'durga-B'luru march from March 22

G SUBHASH CHANDRA @Chitradurga

BJP will take out a march against the state government on internal reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The aim is to get justice to oppressed sections, said former MLA P Rajeev.

At a preliminary meeting on Sunday ahead of the march, he said, "The movement will be launched from Chitradurga on March 22. It will reach Bengaluru on March 27, and we will lay siege to Vidhana Soudha on that day. One lakh people will join on the opening day. The government should come to us on the first day and provide justice to SC and STs. Otherwise, the struggle will intensify by the day." Holalkere MLA Dr M Chandrappa said Congress has been creating confusion over reservation.

"The BJP government had increased the reservation for SC and ST communities, recognising their struggle of three decades. But the Congress government is suppressing our voice. The increase in reservation was Ambedkar's contribution, not Siddaramaiah's," said former minister B Sriramulu.

"This is a do-or-die struggle. We will return home only after achieving internal reservation for SC/STs," said former minister Shivanagowda Nayak. "Let the struggle continue until the goal is reached. If there is no reservation, 4,000 government posts will be lost for Scheduled Castes. This is not a struggle for our survival. It is for the survival of the community," said former MLA Rajugowda.

MP Govind M Karajol, former MP A Narayanaswamy, former minister N Mahesh, Bangaru Hanumanthu, Cement Manju, Basavaraj Dadesuguru, former MP Umesh Jadhav, Pratap Gowda, KT Kumaraswamy, Umesh Karjol, Madiga Dandorada Narasappa, Y Sampangi and others were present.

EXPRESS READ

Man held for making kid write communal slogan on mosque wall

BAGALKOT: In a shocking incident that could have triggered communal tension, a man used a minor to write the slogan "Jai Shri Ram" using Holi colours in front of a mosque in Navanagar of Bagalkot on Friday. However, the Bagalkot police prevented the situation from escalating. Yamanuri Bajantri, an auto driver, brought six children to the spot in his auto, sources said. The children included his four children and his sister's two children, aged between 7 and 14 years. Police said that one of the children, a boy aged around 12 years, was allegedly made to write the slogan "Jai Shri Ram" on the road in front of the mosque. The incident was captured on CCTV. The Navanagar Police registered a case and took the accused into custody. The minor boy who wrote the slogan also been taken into custody and produced before the Juvenile Justice Board. Police have also launched an investigation to ascertain whether others were involved in the incident. **ENS**

Your pillows could get silk stuffing

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

RETIRED researchers, scientists, and experts from the Karnataka State Sericulture Research and Development Institute (KSSRDI) have developed pillows crafted from silk threads, offering a feather-soft feel.

These pillows are the alternative to bird feather pillows that normally used. To make the silk feather, the teams have used silk fibre strains that are 1.5cm in length and even smaller, which are not used in making clothes and are usually considered as a waste. "Silk is a natural product that can resist high temperatures and as low as less than -5*C. Pillows made of silk strands do not absorb moisture. Also, as silk is non-hydroscopic in nature, it makes for an ideal pillow stuffing material," said H Maharaddi, retired scientist from KSSRDI.

They are rightly bulky unlike cotton and nylon fibre pillows. Further, the usage of ostrich, duck or cock and hen neck feathers usage is completely negated. While one kilogram of bird feathers is used to make a feather pillow, in making a silk feather pillow around 400 grams of fibre material is used.

The other advantage is that since these pillows are fluffier as they are made of silk, it provides better sleep, improve blood circulation, better neck support. He also said that it helps to reduce hairfall and hair do not stick to the pillows also.

While reeling the cocoons and making the end products a lot of silk waste is generated. The protein extracted is used in making cosmetics including creams, lip balm and oils. Studies are now on to create silk hair gel and gum.

An official in KSSRDI said, the aim is to launch the pillow in couple of months and trials are on. "There are a lot of formalities with the present government due to which things are taking time. We dropped the research on creating silk heater blankets for the defence personnel going to Siachen and other such places due to lack of funds and political issues," the official said.

Presently there is a rise in the trend of gifting silk bedding collection which include silk blankets, pillow covers and bed spreads, this new inclusion of silk thread feather pillows will complete the set. There is also a rising demand for these products from star hotels, the official said.

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MISSION ROAD BRANCH :
Retail Recovery, 2nd Floor, No.58, IDBI House, Mission Road, Bengaluru-560027
Ph: 080-61451280//233/234/241/246. Email: recovery.bangalore@idbi.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Sale Through E-Auction Only)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to IDBI Bank Limited (Secured Creditor), the Constructive/Symbolic/Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of IDBI Bank Limited (Secured Creditor), will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is"**, and "Whatever there is on **24th March 2026** for recovery of amount due to IDBI Bank Limited (Secured Creditor) for the below mentioned Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagors.

Date and Time of Auction 24th March 2026 from 10:30 AM to 1.00 PM
Last date of online submission of Bid: 23rd March 2026 before 04:00 PM.
EMD Payment to be made into IDBI A/c No: 00834915010026; IFSC CODE: IBKL0000008 with relevant Bid Documents to reach us on or before: 23rd March 2026 before 04:00 PM to IDBI Bank Limited, Retail Recovery, 2nd Floor, No.58, IDBI House, Mission Road, Bengaluru-560027.
Minimum Bid increment: Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only).

1. **Name & Address of the Borrower : Mr.Jayaprathap Ramamurthy and Mrs.Hamsa N,** No.314, 2nd Main, 2nd C Cross, Near CMR college OBMR layout, Chikkabanasawadi, Bangalore North – 5600034.
Demand Notice: 06-02-2023 **Possession Notice: 07-12-2023**
Outstanding Amount : Rs.33,89,872.90 (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Two and Paisa Ninety Only) as on 09.02.2024 together with further interest and charges thereon with effect from 10-02-2024. (less further payments , if any).
Details of Property Mortgaged : Schedule 'A' Property All that piece and parcel of the property bearing H.Gollahalli Gram Panchayath No.150200302600220038, (fanned in Sy.No.28/1) admeasuring 3 Acres and 8 Guntas out of 4 acres and 29 guntas, situated at Doddabele Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on the: East by Sy.No.28/2 belonging to the Vendor; Westby Remaining portion in Sy.No.28/1, Road adjacent to Sy.No.28/1 and Sri.Venkatapura Village Borde; North by Remaining Portion of the Property bearing Sy No.28/1 ; South by;Sy No.26
Schedule 'B' Property 660.64 Square Feet undivided right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property excluding the land reserved for road admeasuring approximately 183.63 Square Mete
Schedule 'C' Property All that piece and parcel of the apartment bearing No: A2-312, 3rd Floor, Block 'A', building known as 'VBHC Palmhaven', having H.Gollahalli Gram Panchayat Property No :1502003026oono667, admeasuring 750 Square Feet of super built up area, with one covered car parking space and bounded as follows: East by Flat No.314; West by Flat No.310; North by Corridor/Fiat No.311; South by Park
Reserve Price: Rs.33,00,000/- **EMD: Rs.3,30,000/-**

2. **Name & Address of the Borrower: Mrs. Lakshmi Srinivasa & Mrs. Rathna Srinivasa** W/o Mr.Srinivasa K V # 14, 2nd Main Road, Opp Malleshwaram Railway Station, Gandhi Grama, Gayathrinagar, Bangalore-560021.
Demand Notice: 20-07-2021 **Possession Notice: 08-06-2022**
Outstanding Amount: Rs. 94,74,408/- (Rupees Ninety Four Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Four Hundred and Eight Only) as on 02-08-2023 together with further interest and charges thereon with effect from 02-08-2023. (less further payments , if any).
Property details: All that piece and parcel of Residential Converted Land Bearing Sy.No.73/5 measuring 1 Acre 17 Guntas and Residential Converted Land Bearing Sy.No.73/6 measuring 21 Guntas both the properties totally measuring 1 Acre 38 Guntas, (converted vide Official Memorandum dated 6/7/2013, bearing No.ALN(EVH)SR/443/2012-13, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District Bangalore), Presently Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Katha No.359/73/5/73/6/17, situated at Balagere Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. Bangalore and bounded as: East by : Remaining portion of Sy.No.73/5 and 73/6; West by : Remaining portion of Sy.No.73/5 and 73/6; North by : Land bearing Sy.No.73/4; South by : Road; SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY-370 Sq.feet, undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property (proportionate to the Schedule C Property. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY-Residential Apartment bearing No.001 in the Ground Floor, Block-B, in Wing-D, admeasuring a super built area of 1380 Square Feet, consisting of 2 Bedrooms, in the Multistoried Residential Apartment Building Known as "SRI KRISHNA EXCEL STONE", constructed over the Schedule "A" Property Inclusive of proportionate share in the common area such as passage, lobbies, lift, staircase and other areas of common area, (including half portion in depth of the joints between the Ceiling of the Apartment and floors of the apartment above it, internal and external walls between such levels) and the building is of RCC roofing as per specification appended hereto with separate electricity, common water and sanitation, including all rights, title, interest, privileges, appurtenances, together with a covered car parking space slot to be earmarked and the apartment is bounded on: East by: Corridor, West by: Open to sky: North by: Open to sky: South by: Corridor.
Reserve Price: Rs.44,00,000/- **EMD: Rs.4,40,000/-**

3. **Name & Address of the Borrower: Mrs. Lakshmi Srinivasa & Mrs. Rathna Srinivasa,** W/o Mr.Srinivasa K V # 14, 2nd Main Road, Opp Malleshwaram Railway Station, Gandhi Grama, Gayathrinagar, Bangalore-560021.
Demand Notice: 20-07-2021 **Possession Notice: 08-06-2022**
Outstanding Amount: Rs.91,92,604/- (Rupees Ninety One Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Six Hundred and Four Only) as on 02-08-2023 together with further interest and charges thereon with effect from 02-08-2023. (less further payments , if any).
Property details: All that piece and parcel of Residential Converted Land Bearing Sy.No.73/5 measuring 1 Acre 17 Guntas and Residential Converted Land Bearing Sy.No.73/6 measuring 21 Guntas both the properties totally measuring 1 Acre 38 Guntas, (converted vide Official Memorandum dated 6/7/2013, bearing No.ALN(EVH)SR/443/2012-13, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District Bangalore), Presently Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Katha No.359/73/5/73/6/17, situated at Balagere Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. Bangalore and bounded as: East by : Remaining portion of Sy.No.73/5 and 73/6; West by : Remaining portion of Sy.No.73/5 and 73/6; North by : Land bearing Sy.No.73/4; South by : Road; SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY-328 Sq.feet, undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property (proportionate to the Schedule C Property. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY-Residential Apartment bearing No.402 in the Fourth Floor, Block-B, in Wing-D, admeasuring a super built area of 1224 Square Feet, consisting of 2 Bedrooms, in the Multistoried Residential Apartment Building Known as "SRI KRISHNA EXCEL STONE", constructed over the Schedule "A" Property Inclusive of proportionate share in the common area such as passage, lobbies, lift, staircase and other areas of common area, (including half portion in depth of the joints between the Ceiling of the Apartment and floors of the apartment above it, internal and external walls between such levels) and the building is of RCC roofing as per specification appended hereto with separate electricity, common water and sanitation, including all rights, title, interest, privileges, appurtenances, together with a covered car parking space slot to be earmarked and the apartment is bounded on: East by: Corridor, West by: Open to sky: North by: Open to sky: South by: Corridor.
Reserve Price: Rs.46,80,000/- **EMD: Rs.4,68,000/-**

4 **Name & Address of the Borrower: Mrs. Shruthi Ponanna Areyada** No.80 `PRARTHANA`,60 Feet Road, NGEF Layout, Sanjay Nagar,Near Karnataka Bank, Bangalore- 560094
Demand Notice: 27-06-2019 **Possession Notice: 22-11-2019**
Outstanding Amount: Rs. 93,06,247/- (Rupees Ninety Three Lakh Six Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Seven Only) as on 02-08-2023 together with further interest and charges thereon with effect from 02-08-2023 (less further payments , if any).
Property details: SCHEDULE I PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of Property Old Survey No. 16/1 and now Re-Survey No. 16/3, situated at Vijinapura Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore converted from agricultural to non- agricultural residential use, vide the order dated 14/09/2010, passed by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District in Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN(E)SR(KH)66/2010-11 situated at Old Survey No.16/1 and now Re-Survey No.16/3, situated at Vijinapura Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore measuring 2 Acres including 1 Gunta Kharab of Land bounded on the : East by : Land Bearing Sy No.18 West by : Banaswadi Village Boundry & Road, North by : Remaining portion of the same Survey South by : Land bearing Sy.No. 15. SCHEDULE II PROPERTY: Part of the schedule I property agreed to be sold to the Second Part 384 sft undivided right, title and interest in IMMOVABLE PROPERTY mentioned in Schedule I above. SCHEDULE III PROPERTY: Apartment bearing Flat No.308, A Block, 3rd Floor, of 1280 Sft Super Built-up area, containing, 2BHK, together with one covered car parking space, along with proportionate share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Staircase, contained in the Multi storied building to be constructed on the SCHEDULE I Property known as "ADITI ELOQUENT"
Reserve Price: Rs.56,00,000/- **EMD: Rs.5,60,000/-**

5 **Name & Address of the Borrower: Mrs. Shruthi Ponanna Areyada** No.80 `PRARTHANA`,60 Feet Road, NGEF Layout, Sanjay Nagar, Near Karnataka Bank, Bangalore- 560094
Demand Notice: 27-06-2019 **Possession Notice: 22-11-2019**
Outstanding Amount: Rs. 89,07,683/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Lakhs Seven Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Three Only) as on 02-08-2023 together with further interest and charges thereon with effect from 02-08-2023. (less further payments , if any).
Property details: SCHEDULE I PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of Property Old Survey No.16/1 and now Re-Survey No. 16/3, situated at Vijinapura Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore converted from agricultural to non- agricultural residential use, vide the order dated 14/09/2010, passed by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District in Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN(E)SR(KH)66/2010-11 situated at Old Survey No.16/1 and now Re-Survey No.16/3, situated at Vijinapura Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore measuring 2 Acres including 1 Gunta Kharab of Land bounded on the : East by : Land Bearing Sy No.18, West by :Banaswadi Village Boundry & Road, North by : Remaining portion of the same Survey, South by : Land bearing Sy.No. 15. SCHEDULE II PROPERTY: Part of the schedule I property agreed to be sold to the Second Part 384 sft undivided right, title and interest in IMMOVABLE PROPERTY mentioned in Schedule I above. SCHEDULE III PROPERTY: Apartment bearing Flat No.408, B-Block FOURTH Floor, measuring 1280 Sft super built up area, containing 2 bedrooms, together with one covered car parking space, along with proportionate share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Staircase, contained in the Multi storied building to be constructed on the SCHEDULE I Property known as "ADITI ELOQUENT"
Reserve Price: Rs.56,00,000/- **EMD: Rs.5,60,000/-**

6 **Name & Address of the Borrower: Mr Amruth Shiroor,** Site No 119, Royal Residency, Choodenapura Vikllage, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk.
Demand Notice: 18-09-2025 **Symbolic Possession Notice: 30-12-2025**
Outstanding Amount: Rs.24,66,516.00 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen Only) as on 10-07-2025 plus further interest and charges together with further interest and charges thereon with effect from 10-07-2025. (less further payments , if any).
SCHEDULE A PROPERTY: All the piece and parcel of independent Vacant Residential Site bearing No. 119, measuring East to West 30" ft, North to South 40' ft, totally measuring 1200 sq. ft., of project ROYAL RESIDENCY in BBMP Katha No. 57E/130V22y3A-119 formed out of Converted Land bearing Sy. No. 22/3A, measuring 09 Guntas, bearing conversion order no. ALN (S) SR (K) 25 / 2009-2010, dated 30.01.2010, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, situated at Choodenapura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District, which is bounded on the East by : Road; West by : Site No 120 North by : Site No 118, South by : Road together with all and singular the structures and erections thereon, both present and future.
Reserve Price: Rs.58,80,000/- **EMD: Rs.5,88,000/-**

7 **Sri. K R Prashanth Reddy & Smt. K R Saraswathi -** No.31, 10th B Cross,Maruthi Nagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560094
Demand Notice : 19-06-2025 **Possession Notice : 26-09-2025**
Outstanding Amount : Rs. 2,02,01,745/- (Rupees Two Crore Two Lakh One Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Five Only) as on 11/05/2025 plus further interest and charges thereon.
Property Details: All that piece and parcel of Ktha No.48/1-2, Eastern portion of site No.8,& Katha No.48/1, site No.7, formed in Sy No.48/1, and measuring East to West 45 feet and North to South 50 feet , in all measuring 2250 Sq ft along with the one sqare building situated at Nagasettihalli village, Kasaba Hobi, BNT, Bangalore and bounded on the East by : Site No. 6, West by : Remaining Portion Of Same Property 8, South by : Property Of Mary Joseph, North by : Road
Reserve Price: Rs.2,65,00,000/- **EMD: Rs.26,50,000/-**

8 **Mr. Kommu Kishore Kumar -** # 28, Anmol. Opp Aurobindo School, Canara Bank Layout, Kodigehalli, Bengaluru-560092
Demand Notice : 30-06-2025 **Possession Notice : 30-08-2025**
Outstanding Amount: Rs. 68,51,109.95 (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakh Fifty One Thousand One Hundred nine and Paise Ninety Five Only), as on 10-04-2025 plus further interest and charges thereon
Property Details: All that Residential Apartment bearing No.J-0371 in Third Floor of Tower 'J' of the Project viz., "BRIGADE BRICKLANE" situated at Thirumenahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and measuring 635 Sq. Ft. (59 Sq.Mtrs.) of Carpet Area, 57 Sq. Ft. (5.29 Sq.Mtrs.) of Balcony Area and 310 Sq. Ft. (28.79 Sq.Mtrs.) of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1002 Sq. Ft. (93.08 Sq.Mtrs.) of saleable area approximately, with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Lower/Upper Basement Level/Ground Level and the Apartment is bounded by the East: Lobby in 3rd Floor in Tower 'J' of 'BRIGADE BRICKLANE"; West: Open towards Open Space in Tower 'J' of 'BRIGADE BRICKLANE";North: Apartment No.J-0372 in 3rd Floor in Tower 'J' of 'BRIGADE BRICKLANE"; South: Apartment No.J-0370 in 3rd Floor in Tower 'J' of 'BRIGADE BRICKLANE".
Reserve Price: Rs.86,50,000/- **EMD: Rs.8,65,000/-**

- Interested bidders shall submit proof of payment along with KYC documents (photo identity and address proofs) like PAN Card (compulsory), Aadhaar Card, Passport, Voter ID card, Driving License etc. in person to the Authorized Officer at the address given above. The bidder shall have to submit the bid along with necessary documents and filling formats in person by visiting the Authorised Officer ('AO')/Branch at the address given above. EMD to be remitted to **Account No. 00834915010026, IFSC Code: IBKL0000008, Branch Name: IDBI Bank Ltd, Mission Road, Bengaluru - 560027, by way of RTGS/NEFT only in favour of IDBI Bank Ltd.** The amount of EMD paid by the interested bidders shall carry no interest. The EMD shall be forfeited if the bidder does not participate in the e-auction by placing the bid.
- The AO shall not take responsibility for any dues (Statutory or otherwise) outstanding as on date and yet to fall due, including dues that may affect transfer of property in the name of the successful bidder and such dues, if any, shall have to be borne by the successful purchaser. IDBI Bank Ltd. shall not take any responsibility to provide information on the same. The successful bidder would be required to bear all the necessary expenses like stamp duty, registration, expenses, tax liabilities, if any, etc. for transfer of immovable property in his/her favour.
- IDBI Bank Ltd and AO do not take responsibility for any errors/ omissions/ discrepancy/ shortfall etc. in the immovable properties or for procuring any permissions etc. or for the dues of any authority established by law.
- Property will be sold to bidder quoting the highest bid amount. However, the Authorized Officer has the absolute power & right to accept or reject any tender/bid or adjourn/postpone the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever thereof. The property will not be sold below Reserve Price.
- The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of bid amount (after adjusting EMD) immediately or next working day and balance 75% amount must be payable within 15 days. On failure to pay the sale price as stated all deposits including EMD shall be forfeited without further notice. However extension of further reasonable time to make the balance 75% payment in exceptional situations shall be at sole discretion of authorized officer.
- For any clarification, the interested parties may contact : **Shri Vithal Koteswara Rao - 080-61451250, Shri Pradip Sutradhar - 080-61451233, Smt. Urmila Sahoo - 080-61451234, Shri Vageesha Javali - 080-61451246, Kum. CP Krishnapriya - 080-61451280. Email Id: recovery.bangalore@idbi.co.in**
- For E-auction support, please contact Kum. B M Sushmitha / Smt. Pooja M Phone Nos. – 8951944383 / 9686196751 Landline- 080-61451280//233/234/241/246, E-mail: sushmitha.b@antaressystems.com /pooja.m@antaressystems.com, **Website: https://www.bankeauctionwizard.com,** ANTARES SYSTEMS LIMITED "Honganasu", #137/3, Bangalore Mysore Road, Opp. to Metro Pillar P-696, Kengeri, Bangalore – 560 060.

Date: March 08 , 2026.
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorised Officer

The AIADMK has become stronger after expelling traitors and no one can destroy it, said former TN CM and LoP Edappadi K Palaniswami at Perundurai in Erode on Sunday. " CM MK Stalin says that 'the BJP will swallow or destroy the AIADMK', but in reality, no one can do so." he said

UTTER CHAOS

Viral ₹1 shoe offer brings Kozhikode to a standstill

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kozhikode

WHAT was conceived as a "clever" viral marketing strategy for the grand reopening of a local footwear store, Trend Factory, transformed into a major public safety crisis on Sunday. The shop, located on the busy Vaikom Mohammed Basheer Road near Mananchira, saw an unprecedented surge of thousands of people after promising premium shoes for a mere Re 1. The resulting disorder led to a police lathicharge, multiple injuries, and the detention of the store's management.

The chaos was ignited by an Instagram reel that spread like wildfire across Kerala and neighbouring states. The advertisement promised that the first 100 customers to arrive with a one-rupee note could select any pair of shoes, some valued as high as ₹2,000, for the symbolic price of ₹1. Subsequent customers were promised free watches and other gifts. The allure of the deal drew crowds far beyond the city's capacity. By 2 am, hundreds of students, especially teenagers and youths, had already begun camping outside the shop.

Adhil Muhammed, 17, who had travelled nearly 100 km from Wayanad, said, "I reached here by 2:30 am, thinking I'd be one of the first, but I was shocked to see hundreds already waiting. I gave someone ₹30 to get a ₹1 note from him. I met guys who came all the way from Mangaluru and Thrissur."

Dalit in custody dies in hosp, kin allege torture

26-yr-old suffered fracture when he jumped off bridge while trying to escape, say police

VIGNESH V @ Sivaganga

A 26-year-old Scheduled Caste youth, who was arrested by police in connection with an assault case at Manamadurai in Sivaganga district, allegedly died while undergoing treatment for fracture at the Government Rajaji Hospital (GRH) in Madurai early on Sunday. His family claimed that he was tortured by the police during interrogation. A judicial inquiry has been ordered, sources said.

After the brutal death of temple guard Ajit Kumar last year, this is the second such death in the Manamadurai police subdivision in the district. According to police, R Akash Deison (26) of Krishnarajapuram Colony in Manamadurai, a history-sheeter with multiple cases against him, was undergoing treatment at the hospital after breaking his leg while trying to escape from police on March 6. Police claimed that Deison suffered the fracture when he jumped from Melapasalai Bridge while trying to escape.

He was apprehended by the police and admitted to the Government Sivaganga Medical College Hospital (GSMCH) and was later shifted to the GRH.

Akash's father Rajeshkannan told reporters that his son hadn't slipped and broken

his leg on his own as claimed by police, but the cops had broken it purposefully by taking him to an isolated locality. He was brutally assaulted because of his caste (Devendra Kula Vellalar). Akash was bleeding heavily, which led to his death, his father said. "Akash told my wife about the police brutality while he was alive on Saturday. Even the police inspector told my wife about breaking his leg," he said. He added that his son was speaking to family members even on Saturday and demanded stringent action against the policemen responsible for the brutal attack. "The police could have left my son alive by just breaking his leg with stones instead of killing him," said the inconsolable father.

Sources from GRH, where his body is kept, said the exact cause of the death would be known only after a postmortem. Separate protests led by family members continued in Manamadurai and in front of the GRH in Madurai demanding action against policemen, a case under the SC/ST Act, compensation for the family, and a government job for a family member.

Henri Tiphagne, advisor of the Joint Action Against Custodial Torture – Tamil Nadu (JAACT-TN) condemned the police in a video statement. Akash's case is the 26th such death in police custody, he said. The postmortem must be conducted following all due procedures and guidelines, Tiphagne said.

LOUD CHEER

Thousands of cricket lovers throng Chennai's Marina Beach to watch the India versus New Zealand T20 World Cup finals on Sunday evening. A huge screen was set up to telecast the match | ASHWIN PRASATH

Congress to lead alliance in Pondy, DMK in TN, says Mukul Wasnik

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

CONGRESS Working Committee member Mukul Wasnik on Sunday asserted that the Congress would lead the alliance in Puducherry, while the DMK would head the alliance in Tamil Nadu, expressing confidence that the DMK–Congress combine would secure a sweeping victory in the upcoming elections. Speaking to reporters at Satyamurthy Bhavan after a review meeting on poll preparedness, Wasnik said the alliance was well positioned to win the confidence of the electorate.

"After the counting of votes, you will see that we will have our government in the state," he said.

Wasnik also dismissed the prospects of actor-politician Vijay emerging as a significant political force in the state, saying the support of the electorate would remain with the DMK–Congress alliance. He added that the Congress had made adequate preparations for the elections at the organisational level. "There is strong enthusiasm within the organisation. We have seen that the organisation is in full preparedness to go for elections," he said.

Tamil Nadu Congress incharge Girish Chodankar said that although the party would contest only 28 of the 234 Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu, it was gearing up to mobilise its organisational strength across the state to ensure victory for the alliance.

Kin seek safe return of TN fishers from Iran

M ABDUL RABI @ Kanniyakumari

RELATIVES of fishermen from Kanniyakumari district have urged the union government to take immediate steps to bring back around 800 fishers allegedly stranded in Kish, Asaloor, Shiragh, Mugham islands of Iran owing to the war in west Asia. A video sent by the stranded fishermen to their families explaining their plight has now gone viral.

Fishermen from coastal villages of the district go to Iran via Dubai after getting seaman licence and work for Iranian sponsors, sources said. V Vimala of Rajakkamangalamthurai said her husband J Rajendiran (48) called her over phone from Kish island on Saturday, saying all the fishermen working there are in a state of fear owing to constant air strikes.

With food shortage looming large, Rajendiran said they could eat only once a day. R Santhiya from Kurumpanai said her husband R Sahayaprabhu (41) had told her a few days ago that he and several fishermen had to stay in a boat to escape air strikes. A Shaja from Muttom said that her husband A Ravi Kumar was staying in Mugham island, where the situation was very tense.

Majhi launches 4th phase of Subhadra assistance

BHUBANESWAR: Marking the International Women's Day, Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi released the fourth instalment of financial assistance under Subhadra Yojana, transferring ₹5,106 crore to over 1.2 crore women. He credited the scheme for bringing a "transformational change" in the lives of women.

ANDHRA PRADESH INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LTD (APIIC)
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)
APIIC Towers, 9th & 10th Floors, Plot No-1, IT Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur(Dist), AP-522503

'REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS'

SELECTION OF DEVELOPERS FOR DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LARGE INDUSTRIAL PARKS ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) BASIS AT 14 LOCATIONS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) intends to select Developers for the Development, Operation and Maintenance of Large Industrial Parks (ranging from **100 to 500 acre**) on a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** basis at **14 (fourteen) locations** across Andhra Pradesh.
The Selected Developers will be responsible for comprehensive development, operation and maintenance of the Large Industrial Parks.
Interested Bidders are encouraged to attend the Pre-Bid Meetings as per the schedule mentioned in the respective Request for Proposal (RFP) documents.
A separate RFP is issued for each location and can be downloaded from **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** or **https://apiic.in/downloads-tenders/.** Bidders must submit their proposals in the prescribed format **on or before the Proposal Due Date** specified in the RFP document.

Sd/- Vice Chairman & Managing Director, APIIC Ltd.

For inquiries and clarifications related to the RFP, please reach out to investments-ap@apiic.in

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU
F.D.P.No. 145 of 2024

Between : Smt. Suchitra S W/o. Suresh, D/o. M. Srinivas Aged about 35 years Residing at No.52, 1st Floor, Gattigere Layout. R.R.Nagar, Bengaluru and another ...**Petitioners**
AND : Sri. M Srinivas @ Venkata Srinivas And others ...**Respondents**

NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS NO.4

TO. Nishita's Developers A Proprietorship Concerned Having its office At No.698, 2nd Floor, 29th Main.100 feet Ring Road, BTM Layout. 2nd Stage, Bengaluru. Rep by its Proprietor. Mr.P. Raja That the above petition is filed by the petitioners to draw final decree in pursuance of the preliminary decree on 3/2/2024 in O.S No. 6843 of 2017. against you before the Hon'ble XXXIX Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge at Bangalore City (CCH-40).
Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this court, in person or through pleader on **10-04-2026 at 11 A.M.** on which date the said case will be posted for hearing, in case you intend to contest the case. If you fail to appear, the same will be dealt with as heard and decided in your absence.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing No.47/A, Old No.41/47, Later corporation No.47/A-41-47 Present BBMP Khatha No.6, and PID No.65-358-6 and BBMP Khatha No.7 PID No. 65-358-7, situated at 3rd Cross, 3rd Main, Nyanappashettypalya (N S Palya) Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, presently under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP measuring East to West (50+67)2 feet, North to South 95 feet in all measuring 5557.55 square feet with all rights, appurtenances, and bounded on :-
East by : House belonging to Chikkabayappa,
West by : House belonging to Kempamma,
North by : Road,
South by : House belonging to Krishnappa
Issued under my hand and the seal of this court this 4th day of March 2026.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court, Bangalore

Advocate for Petitioner. Girish B. Advocate No.572, Samruddi, 1st Floor, 14th A Cross Manjunath Nagar, Near Manjunath Temple, Bengaluru 560010

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the kind notice of the General public that my client Yuvaraj Balasubramani Son of Sri.Balasubramani, residing at Flat No.SF2. IRIS NEST Apartments, No.89, 4th Cross, Ramarao Layout, Kathriguppe, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore – 560 085 is negotiating with one Pushpalatha S Pai, Wife of Late Santharam Pai, Satish Chandra S Pai, Son of Late Santharam Pai and Ayshwarya S Pai Daughter of Late Santharam Pai, residents of Narayan Nivas, T.D Road, Ernakulam College, Ernakulam, Kerala – 682 035 for the purchase of the flat No.S-02 / 202, morefully described in the schedule hereunder for a valuable sale consideration and if any person/s is having any objection for the said transaction please contact my client or his advocate with documents within 5 days from the date of this publication or else the transaction will be concluded by getting the sale deed executed in favor of my client and the objections received later than 5 days will not be entertained. Which please note.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of property bearing residential Flat bearing No.S-02/202, Second Floor facing road in the Apartment building known as IRIS NEST, situated at Site No.89, S.Ramarao Layout, Kattaraguppa Village, Banashankari 3rd Stage, now coming within BBMP Ward No.163, Kathriguppe Ward, Old Ward No.54, Bangalore together with undivided share in the land.

PLACE:BANGALORE.
DATE: 06.03.2026

S.N.MADHU, ADVOCATE
No.94/1a, 2nd A Cross, 3rd Phase 6th Block, 3rd Stage, Bsk., Kathriguppe Near Ayappa Temple, Bangalore - 560 085

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/184 - 2025-26

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0612/0326 [2nd Call] [RFX No. 7000039149] (Two Bid System) for Selection of Solar Power Developers for setting up of 15 MW Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar PV Projects under RESCO Mode at various EHV Substations and Admin Buildings of MSETCL across Maharashtra.	Rs. 25459.20 Lakhs / 25,000.00	30.03.2026 18:00 Hrs / 30.03.2026 18:15 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr-VI)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai
Tel. No.:022-69852712/022-69852720
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in , eegrp6@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/**
Any further amendments/clarifications will be published on the MSETCL website **www.mahatransco.in. & https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/** . Bidders are therefore requested to check these websites for further updates.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
O/o The Chief Engineer, Jalabhavan
#P-4, 10 Main, 3rd Cross, 3rd Floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-09
Phone: 0821-2545894 E-mail: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com

No.: 1856/2025-26 **Date: 05.03.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The tender for the work of "Additional works of Improvements of Bulk Water Supply System to Chamundi hills in Mysuru city under Deposit Contribution works of Sri Chamundeshwari Temple Development Authority including 1-year DLP (Lumpsum Tender-No Variation)" amounting to **Rs. 513.25 Lakhs** (Excluding GST) has been invited vide Karnataka Public Procurement Portal indent No: KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT497.
Further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/MYS/1793/SA/2025-26 Sd/- **Chief Engineer**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AEE-5/F-16/2025-26/15039-42 Date: 07.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids through e-Procurement mode for Services **Tender No.: KPTCL/2025-26/SE2356** for Providing **Twelve (12) Nos. of Security Guard (Men) Services** required to 220/66/11kV **Yachenahally** R/s, 220/66/11kV **Kadavinakote** R/s, 220/110kV **Kemar** R/s & 220/110 kV **Heggunje** R/s for a period of One year **(12 Months)** pertains to Operations Divisions, KPTCL, Holenarasipura, Hassan District and Kemar, Dakshina Kannada District on **Contract Basis.**
The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"tenders"** on or after **09.03.2026 at 11:00 Hrs.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Elec.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor,
Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan - 573201.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/BGKT/Tr(Op)Z/SEE(O)/25-26/AEE-1/20774-78 Date:06.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites tender on Electronic mode for the following works including supply of equipments / materials, erection, civil works, testing and commissioning.

1. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H57/25-26/Naragund** Tender No: **KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3349** for Providing additional 1x10 MVA 110/11kV Transformer at 110/11kV **Naragund** sub-station in Naragund Taluk, Gadag District. on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**
2. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H58/25-26/Alnr** Tender No: **KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3441** for Providing additional 1x10 MVA 110/11kV Transformer at 110/33/11kV **Alnavar** sub-station in Alnavar Taluk, Dharwad District. on **Partial Turn Key Basis**
3. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H59/25-26/ Shedbal** Tender No: **KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3347** for Providing additional 1X10 MVA, 110/11kV Transformer at 110kV **Shedbal** sub-station in Dharwad Taluk and Dharwad district. on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**
4. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H60/25-26/ Tumminakatti** Tender No: **KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3351** for Providing additional 1X10 MVA, 110/11kV Transformer at 110kV **Tumminakatti** sub-station in Rattihalli Taluk, Haveri district. on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**
5. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H61/25-26/ Basavanakatti** Tender No: **KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3350** for Providing Spare 1x10MVA, 110/11kV Transformer at 110kV **Basavanakatti** sub-station in Haveri taluk, Haveri district. on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**
6. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/110KV/STN-H62/25-26/ Singatalur** Tender No: **KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3352** for Providing additional 1x10MVA, 110/33kV Transformer along with construction of 2 nos. of 33kV TBs at 110kV at **110kV Singatalur** sub-station in Mundargi taluk, Gadag District. on **Partial Turn Key Basis.**
7. Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-H63/25-26/ Kawalwad** Tender No: **KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3440** for Providing LILO arrangement with metering & protection to 110kV NK-1 & NK-2 lines at 110 kV **Kawalwad** sub-station in Uttara Kannada District. on **TTK basis.**
The tenders will be received through e-procurement portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website:**https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper link 'E Procurement KPTCL' OR **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **09.03.2026.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Electy.,)
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL,
110kV Sub-Station Premises, Bagalkot-587 103.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road Bengaluru-560001
Ph:080-25310066, E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 10.04.2026 (10.00 AM to 11.00 AM), for recovery of Rs.88,81,658.34/- (Rupees Eighty-Eight Lakhs Eighty-One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Eight and Thirty-Four Paisa Only) as on 04.03.2026** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) Roysten Adarsh Serrao** S/o Wilfred Serrao, No.10, 9th Main, 7th Cross, Gangamma Nilaya, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010. **(2) Wilfred Serrao,** No.287, 2nd Floor, 3rd Phase, Manjunatha Nagar, Bangalore-560010.
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **09.04.2026 - 5.00 pm.** **(₹.In Lakhs)**

Lot	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value	Inspection date & time
1	**SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing converted Sy no.3 (Converted vide order No. A.L.N.(E) SR (Kru.Ho)181/2008-09, Dated 25/06/2009, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Dist, Bangalore), Present BBMP Katha No.109, situated at Seeegehalli Village, K.R. puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, totally measuring 0-11.08 (Eleven & Half) Guntas, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder of underneath or above the surface and bounded on: East: Road, West: Remaining portion in same Sy No.3, North: Remaining portion in same Sy No. 3, South: Road. **SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY :** 397 sq.ft. of undivided share, rights, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" above. **SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY :** Flat bearing No.005, in the Ground Floor, measuring about 1450 Sq.ft. super built up area, containing Two bed rooms, together with RCC Roofing, ceramic flooring together with One covered car parking space, including proportionate share in the common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, Lift, etc., in the multistoried residential building known as "CASA FELIZ" constructed over Schedule "A" property. **Google Co-ordinates: 13.019886, 77.727955**	₹. 58.00	₹. 5.80	₹. 1.00	25.03.2026 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066, 8598009010 and 9483544116 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 05.03.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

FACULTY RECRUITMENT
Chettinad Academy of Research and Education (Deemed to be University)

Qualified Ph.D candidates required for
Faculty of Engineering and Technology

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Dean/Director

• Professor • Associate Professor • Assistant Professor

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- Robotics
- Business Administration
- Computer Applications
- Mechanical Engineering

Candidates awaiting for Ph.D vivavoce also can attend the interview

Job Locations

Manamai Campus
Chettinad Institute of Technology
No - 68 & 69, Nallur - Manamai, East Coast Road, Thirukalukundram taluk, Chennai - 603102

Karur Campus
Chettinad College of Engineering
NH-67, Trichy - Karur, Main Rd, Puliyur CF, Gandhigramam, Tamil Nadu - 639114

KGF Campus
Chettinad Institute of Technical Education & Research
D.K. Plantation, BEML Nagar, Kolar Gold Fields, Karnataka - 563 115

Kanadukathan Campus
Chettinad Engineering College
Chettinad, Sivagangai District, Tamil Nadu – 630 102

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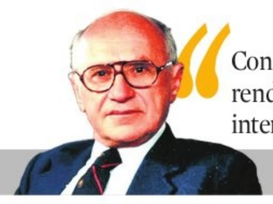
EDITORIAL



Concentrated power is not rendered harmless by the good intentions of those who create it — Milton Friedman

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

LPG PRICE HIKE TESTS INDIA'S STRATEGY TO CONTAIN INFLATION

THE government has assured consumers that petrol and diesel prices will remain unchanged, even as global crude oil prices surge amid the US-Israel-Iran conflict. Yet Saturday's rise in LPG prices is a reminder of how difficult it is to contain inflation in a country like India that depends heavily on imported oil. Policymakers often end up spreading the impact across different segments of the economy.

Oil marketing companies have increased the price of domestic LPG cylinders by ₹60 and commercial cylinders by ₹115, taking the cost of a 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi to ₹913. Officials say the impact is modest—about ₹0.20 per beneficiary per day under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. Even so, the change underscores how cooking gas is often the first to reflect international price movements. Since LPG is primarily used for household cooking, any price increase feeds directly into the fuel and light component of the inflation basket. Even marginal adjustments can have a significant effect in a country with over 33 crore LPG users, including more than 10 crore households under Ujjwala.

Crude oil prices have risen sharply amid the geopolitical crisis, with Brent futures trading around $93-94 a barrel, the highest level in years. Some countries are already bracing for supply disruptions, with discussions on fuel conservation and even temporary restrictions on vehicle use emerging in parts of the world as governments prepare for potential shortages. For India, which imports nearly 88 percent of its crude oil, any prolonged price spike could quickly complicate inflation management.

For now, the government appears to be absorbing part of the shock rather than passing it fully on to consumers. Petrol and diesel prices have remained largely unchanged for years, leaving oil marketing companies to bear much of the fluctuation in crude costs. This helps prevent fuel inflation from cascading into transport costs and broader consumer prices.

Energy costs, however, ripple far beyond fuel. When crude prices climb, petrochemical inputs used in industries such as tyres, paints, packaging and synthetic textiles become more expensive. Higher gas prices also affect sectors like fertilisers and ceramics.

India also faces strategic risks as much of its crude oil and LPG imports pass through the volatile Strait of Hormuz. Strategic petroleum reserves covering about 74 days of demand and diversified sourcing—including supplies from Russia—provide some cushion. Yet the central challenge remains containing inflation without undermining growth. For now, India appears to be walking that tightrope with cautious pragmatism.

OPEN SABARIMALA PROBE NEEDED TO QUELL BIAS

THE investigation into the systematic misappropriation of gold at the Sabarimala temple appears to be floundering, suffering from delays, obscurity and a lack of transparency. Most of the accused have walked out on bail due to the probe team's inability to file a charge sheet within the allotted time. While the perceived tardy probe by the police special investigation team (SIT) is being flagged as an effort to drag the case and allegedly protect a former Communist Party of India (Marxist) minister, a single-judge bench of the Kerala High Court has more than once ticked off the team for slow progress and lapses, observing that the manner of investigation could erode public confidence and raise doubts about its seriousness. A division bench monitoring the investigation, however, has expressed satisfaction and given the team until March 31 to file the final report.

It has been five months since the SIT began its probe into the theft of gold from the *dwarapalaka* idols and door frames. The investigation has expanded into a multi-agency affair with the state vigilance and anti-corruption bureau taking up the alleged misappropriation of gold and cash during the installation of the flag mast. The Enforcement Directorate is also looking into the possible money-laundering angle. The SIT has arrested 12 people, including two former presidents of the temple administration board and the Tantri—hereditary head priest—Kandararu Rajeevaru, but eight of them are out on bail. The probe team is still unsure about the quantity of gold stolen and what happened to it. Moreover, a court recently granted bail to the Tantri, noting that there is no evidence tying him to the case.

What stands out in the investigation is the lack of clarity. There is a sense of mystery around the probe and little information is available in the public domain, leading to speculation, allegations and misinformation. Though a court-monitored investigation should be deemed fair, allegations of political interference have cast a cloud of suspicion. The Sabarimala gold theft has the potential to make or mar political fortunes and will be a key issue in the forthcoming assembly elections, raising the stakes for all involved. In such a scenario, the investigation must be efficient and above suspicion. Ensuring transparency and sincerity in the probe is imperative. Public confidence depends on a credible, quick and transparent conclusion.

QUICK TAKE

UNQUIET ACRES

RECENT data reveal that land conflicts in India are far more widespread than previously believed. Land Conflict Watch says 179 conflicts were documented in 2025 alone, 66 of which began that year, while others date back decades. Together they span 7.3 lakh hectares, larger than Sikkim, affect 36 lakh people and stall investments worth ₹3.6 lakh crore. Commons account for a significant share of the land involved, alongside forests and private holdings. The most frequent demands are for continued access to common resources, legal recognition of rights, adherence to due process and rehabilitation. The government must pay sustained attention to land—the most basic material foundation of livelihood, identity, shelter and political voice.

From claims of US decline to India's great-power ambitions, propaganda and perception often outpace reality, while true influence still rests on strategy, capability and institutional strength

NARRATIVES, PRETENSIONS AND REALITY

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE
Author and commentator

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

SOURAV ROY

YES, yes, Bharat is *mahan*, very great, aspires to be *vishwaguru* or world teacher. And our leadership is also the best and smartest in the world, with every other great world leader a personal friend. We garner awards from all corners of the world, even countries ordinary citizens may never have heard of. All in the nation's name, of course; nothing personal about it.

And, if we are to believe an overwhelming section of the media and the commentariat, the United States is not only a declining power but has already lost its war with Iran. Notwithstanding the stark reality of a decimated Iranian leadership, air defence totally destroyed and the missile capacity degraded substantially.

No, it's not a case of wishful thinking or mass delusion. People believe whatever they need to. Those who lose wars—hot or cold—must content themselves with preaching and propaganda. Narratives as the opiate of the masses. He who shall not be named said something similar, remember, but about religion?

It has happened before. The erstwhile Soviet Union lost to the US, but its leftist supporters found cushy and tenured positions in Western academia as post-colonialists. Closer to our own pain point, the progressive Muslim Left lost to their sectarian and separatist Partition-mongering co-religionists. Pakistan was born a day before India, a blood-soaked severance of the sacred soil of Mother India. But they captured Bollywood. Lahore penetrated Mumbai.

Similarly, we see China losing to the US in most theatres the world over, but its propaganda machine has infiltrated right into the heart of American politics, media and civil society. And ours too, in all probability?

Russia, too, far from a swift victory in Ukraine, is entrammelled in a four-plus year war, from which it finds it very hard to extricate itself. It has also given up the Middle East, with its sponsored proxy regime overthrown, and its erstwhile dictator, Bashar al-Assad, now living in Russia under Russian protection.

But we can't criticise Russia or its lifelong, 'elected leader'. He is a friend of India. Just as China's president for life is. We can—and must—criticise the US and Israel. Because they are occupying, colonising powers, no?

Yes, both Ukraine and Iran, to a huge extent, are proxy wars. And in both cases, the Western alliance led by the US seems to have the upper hand. But don't forget the US is an ever-declining power.

The idea behind propaganda is simple, if dangerous. If major powers lose their resolve to rule, defeating them becomes easier. With Europe's colonial guilt and managed decline well underway, a similar abdication, sooner than later, across the Atlantic is only to be expected.

Oh, but there's the inconvenient phenomenon called Donald J Trump. Hated by the opposition parties both in the US and India. There is, however, a popular saying, "Cometh the hour, cometh the man." That Trump represents something much deeper, the US belief in its own exceptionalism and its refusal to cave in, can easily be glossed over through *ad hominem* homilies.

The other side has been drumming it into us for decades: the decline of the US and the rise of China is a foregone conclusion. Who can dispute that? Why bother if Red China has not been able to provide an alternative to the Western world order, militarily, financially or politically within its own country? The dollar will fall, of course, but wouldn't we rather have it than any other opaque and manipulated currency?

The Chinese line, promoted by so many of its paid or unpaid champions, is that the US better step down gracefully from its pedestal. Its time is over; it has neither the moral authority nor the means to be the global hegemon. Consequently, the world, we were told, far from being uni- or even bi-polar, is definitely and verifiably multipolar.

But is it? Can power—hard, soft, smart or any which way you slice and dice it—be countered just by bluff, bluster or propaganda? And the US certainly seems in no mood to be psyched into losing. Roll over and just die, the world says. But it is, quite contrarily, reasserting its position as the world's greatest, if not sole, superpower. How inconvenient!

Where does that leave us? We, too, have ratcheted up our information and influence machine, asserting somewhat peremptorily, if not prematurely, that we are a great power—not merely regional, but global. We can also boast the glories of our ancient civilisation, trying to create our own version of Hindu exceptionalism. Several world leaders play along, flattering us, as if they've understood our weak point.

Why bother with the hard reality that to be a great power, we have not only to build economic strength or military might, but also to put boots on the ground far away from home or police the waters of the ocean named after us?

But, more crucially, we have to build a huge intellectual and strategic capacity across many verticals and spheres of understanding. Every sliver of constructive criticism that flags our broken governance and power structures, or laments our institutionalised, deeply entrenched mediocrity is instantly branded as anti-national. Even when it comes to our economic advantage, it is politically incorrect to admit that it arises mostly from labour arbitrage.

We, the eternal India optimists, must look the other way, even sing hosannas rather than noticing the parlous fallout of our peculiar aversion to both recognising and incentivising talent. We must ignore how education in the public sector has been given over to caste confusion and conflict, while in the private sector, profiteering and fakery abound.

Yes, this is a great opportunity for India, and we are poised at the brink of unprecedented success. But just repeating this mantra instead of investing in and nurturing real ability, fitness and excellence across the board will not take us to the next level of our 'manifest destiny'.

As to narrative management, we've invested plenty in that.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

ANCIENT LOGIC OF BASODA

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

BASODA or Sheetala Ashtami will fall on March 9 or 11 this year, according to some. The name comes from '*basiyaura*', meaning stale, a word better known as '*baasi*' in Hindi. It is a low-key but popular and intimate event in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. I was introduced to this festival decades ago when I lived in Jaipur for a couple of years. Basoda involves offering *baasi* or stale food to the goddess Sheetala, a form of Devi. The food has to be cold and made the previous night, since cooking fires were traditionally not lit on Basoda day. Hence the tag '*baasi*'. The usual offerings are fruit, curd rice and sweets like halwa, kheer and malpua, a delicious fried sweet in sugar syrup that is already in great demand during the festive week for Holi. No hot or spicy food is offered. The family's main meal is the Basoda *thali*, which usually features bajra roti (millet flatbread) as the main dish, served with ghee. Paneer is often served as a side dish.

As ever, beyond these old Indian customs, there is a science to them. The hot weather starts hitting the northern plains hard after Holi. Eating the mildly fermented offerings for Basoda is considered a probiotic protection for the body against heat-related ailments. How our ancestors figured out 'the science of life' millenniums ago is a marvellous testament to ancient Indian observation and analysis. Even more marvellous is the psychology our ancients employed to ensure that people observed Basoda for their own health and well-being. They dedicated the festival to Ma Sheetala, the goddess of good health, whose very name means 'cool' and 'cooling'. The common prayer is to say '*Om Shreem Sheetalaaye Namaha*' when offering food.

Thus, Basoda is a meaningful occasion for many Indians, emphasising the importance of not only health and well-being but also of reverence and gratitude for divine blessings. Whether through fasting, prayers or food offerings, the day seeks to renew the cultural and spiritual practices that can make life meaningful and beautiful. Especially, I like this practice prescribed for Basoda—we are advised to refrain from having negative thoughts, quarrelling, saying or doing mean things and absolutely from grumbling, complaining and cursing, because this is believed to attract negative and even malefic energies into our lives and harm us physically and mentally. In effect, we become what we think. Long before modern science, our ancients understood that feelings are chemicals. So, the biggest and deepest observation recommended for Basoda is to maintain a peaceful and positive mindset throughout the day. It's positioned as a detox day for the mind and a healing day for the body.

Similar festivals are celebrated by Sindhis, Gujaratis and Oriyas. Long back, I had a share of Thadri, a festival celebrated by the Sindhi community, usually seven days after Raksha Bandhan. This festival is directly comparable to Basoda, as a day to consume cold food cooked the previous day to please Goddess Jog Maya.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Indian customs are often dismissed for their lack of modern rationale. However, festivals like Basoda which involves offering cold, stale food to Goddess Sheetala figured out the benefits of probiotics-rich fermented food millenniums ago. Tradition, therefore, continues to perfect the science of life

Typical dishes included lola (sweet paratha), koki (savoury paratha) and methi thepla made by a Sindhi neighbour.

These festival foods reflect ancient dietary patterns. The *Srimad Bhagavatam* tells us that Mother Yashoda packed curd rice for Sri Krishna when he went to graze the cows with the gopa boys. The diet of ancient Indians was primarily based on agriculture and cattle tending with a natural, locally sourced diet. Key staples included cereals like barley (yava), wheat (godhuma) and rice along with dairy products like milk, butter, ghee and curd, assorted lentils, sesame, pepper, turmeric, vegetables like lotus root, pumpkin, brinjal and bottle gourd, and fruits such as mangoes, bananas, citrons and berries. Honey was a popular sweetener. Even today, fermented foods (probiotics) across India, like dosa, idli, kaanji, pakhala (fermented rice) and dhokla quietly enhance gut health and improve digestion.

If we look analytically at calendar events like Basoda and Thadri, they tell us that Indian festivals are evidence of a very caring culture. Unfortunately, we have been conditioned through 'modern' education to pooh-pooh and sneer at our Indian customs, manners and ceremonies. We have been schooled to dismiss them as 'blind superstition' and 'irrelevant to modern life'. What nobody seems to tell us is that our culture wants us to be happy. It is not ritual but intent and attitude that matter.

Ananda, or joy, emerges as the shared principle of tribal, folk and old urban Indian culture. They express a strong connection with nature and a positive attitude often marked by song and dance and always with special food. Some of the earliest-known Indian prayers say things like '*Sarve jana sukhino bhavantu, ma kaschid dukh bhag bhavet*', meaning 'May all people be well and happy, may no one suffer'. Charity is enjoined as a religious duty, a commandment not only in scriptural theory but in story after story, to maintain social balance by helping the needy. A nurturing worldview emerges through our stories, even as early as the *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad*. The words *damyata* (restraint), *datta* (generosity) and *dayadhvam* (compassion) appear in the *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad* in a parable by Rishi Yajnavalkya, conveying a message from the universe contained in the roar of thunder. These are keywords for our existence as an interdependent race. If we but look, they are reflected in several ancient festivals that aim to build up our lives through best practices in health, a positive attitude and happiness.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Fixated eyes

Ref: *War & how to report next week's news* (Mar 8). The author offers a brilliantly sharp take on our 'wobbling' global order. I particularly enjoyed the comparison of modern journalism to weather forecasting—where 'verbal expressions of probability' have replaced solid certainties of the past. The author is right to highlight how the frantic pace of events has made us all armchair predictors. Whether it's the 'dark storm' brewing in the Bay of Bengal or the tactical shuffling of CMs and governors, the instability is palpable. As the column suggests, in an era where the 'crystal ball' is as fickle as the weather, we must focus on the systemic shifts—like the rising share of defence in budgets over education—that truly define our future.
Ramki, Chennai

War mania

Ref: *Trump's war-a-lago* (Mar 8). History has proved that when a conflict is launched without clear objectives or an exit strategy, it rarely ends well. The immediate casualty is not just lives and oil prices, it's the credibility of institutions that were meant to prevent exactly this. Restraint, however unfashionable, remains the wiser counsel.
A Myilsami, Coimbatore

Federal conflict

Ref: *A new politics of governors* (Mar 8). The covert utilisation of governors to promote political agendas has led to bitter conflicts, affecting governance. These proxy wars endanger Indian federalism and cause huge delays and endless disputes. The ruling party should be more tolerant, handle dissent and exhibit maturity to boost its image.
Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru

Overstepping Mamata

Ref: *Rare anger* (Mar 8). People look at Mamata Banerjee as an errant not only for not following the long-established protocol but also counter-questioning the President. No political reasons trotted out can absolve a CM of disrespecting the President.
R Sampath, email

Neighbourhood balance

Ref: *Millennial in a Himalayan hot seat* (Mar 8). The present shift in the political landscape might require India to adopt a more nuanced, non-intrusive approach that aligns with the aspirations of the younger generation rather than relying solely on traditional political elites. Hopefully, the developments in Nepal can make a positive impact on geopolitical balancing for India.
Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
To all the women pioneering this path and the next generation ready to take the lead: the future isn't just approaching: it is already here, and it belongs to you

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
Those Indian journalists who are stuck in Israel had gone along with the PM as 'political journalists', but are compelled to become 'war journalists'.

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
After 15 years in power, Mamata Banerjee has no achievements to showcase for West Bengal. Instead, the CM is sitting on a dharna to distract from her government's failures

A day ahead of budget session, Cong parliamentary strategy meet decides to corner govt on foreign policy, US trade deal

EAM to talk West Asia as Cong set to raise heat in LS

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is scheduled to make a statement in the Lok Sabha on Monday regarding the escalating conflict in West Asia after the US-Israel strikes on Iran, according to the revised List of Business for the Lower House.

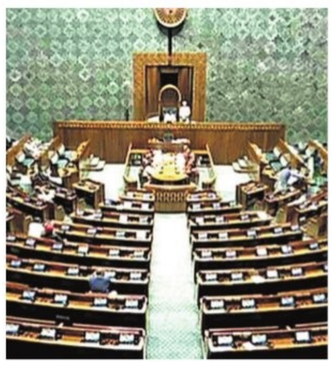
The announcement comes even as opposition parties have been demanding a full-fledged discussion in Parliament on the geopolitical developments and their implications for India, arguing that a suo motu statement by the government alone would not be adequate.

The Congress on Sunday said it will raise key national and international issues including the West Asia conflict, the US' "waiver" on India's purchase of Russian oil, and the implications of the interim India-US trade deal during the second leg of Parliament's Budget session beginning Monday.

After a meeting of the Congress parliamentary strategy group, MP Syed Naseer Hussain said, "We discussed various aspects of national and international developments. We also discussed the West Asia crisis, its implications for foreign policy, and our position on it. We will raise these issues during the session." He added the evolving geopolitical situation and India's oil imports from Russia are crucial issues. "Escalating tensions in West Asia have heightened instability in the region and triggered disruptions in crude oil supplies, leading to rising global prices. We will corner the government's policy on these matters," Hussain said. "We will also raise the important issue of the Indo-US trade deal and its impact on farmers and the agricultural sector," he added.

Congress leaders have alleged that the government's foreign policy approach risks placing India in a subordinate position to both the US and Israel. In addition, the party plans to highlight concerns over the interim India-US trade arrangement and its potential impact on India's farmers and the agricultural sector, Hussain said.

The MEA said it is closely monitoring the West Asia situation, particularly with regard to the safety of the stranded Indian nationals.



Indian carriers to operate 50 flights today

Indian carriers are planning 50 flights from West Asia on Monday, said the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Airfares are being closely monitored to ensure that ticket prices remain reasonable and that there is no undue surge, it said. The ministry said, "Indian carriers are assessing the ground situation in other airports of the region, so that more flights can be operated by Indian carriers from these places." On Sunday Indian carriers operated 49 inbound flights from airports in the region.

Students stuck in Iran run out of food supplies, send SOS calls to govt

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

WITH US-Israel strikes continuing to pound Iran, an unspecified number of Indian medical students stranded at the Kerman University of Medical Sciences in southeast Iran have sent an SOS stating that they were running out of food supplies, said the All India All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA).

"Anxiety over their safety in dangerous Iran has been compounded by the fact that they are now running short of food," AISMA national representative Dr Mohammand Momin Khan said in a statement.

The association said it has received 18 distress calls from Indian students appealing for help on Friday and Saturday, a majority of them from the 32 students stuck at Isfahan University of Medical Sciences in central Iran.

Over 1,000 students from India, a majority from J&K, are still in Iran spread across cities. The students of Shiraz Institute of Medical Sciences in Shiraz province, studying their final year of MBBS, continue to remain in the basement of their university hostel. Explosions continue to be reported.

Nearly 500 students, put up inside hotels in Qom by the Indian Embassy in Iran, reported explosions since last night. "Students called me on Sunday night crying. A few of them just witnessed three explosions right in front of them and are extremely frightened now," said Dr Khan. They were brought from the Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, and the Iran University of Medical Sciences.

Meanwhile, some parents of the stranded students held a protest at Pratap Park near Press Colony in Srinagar.

Shipping DG advisory

The director general of Shipping, Mumbai, has issued an advisory for seafarers and shipping stakeholders in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz and nearby waters. Masters and crew have been asked to ensure round-the-clock watch around vessels. Firms have also been asked to establish 24×7 emergency contact lines.

INSIDER TRACK

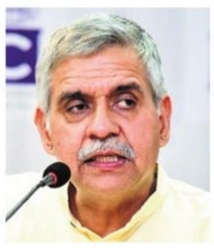
Suspense shrouds Nitish role in Delhi

Ever since Nitish Kumar's entry into the Rajya Sabha after 19 years, political circles in Delhi are busy speculating the kind of role that awaits him as a senior NDA leader. There aren't many takers for the idea that Nitish will quietly attend to business as a Rajya Sabha MP. One possibility doing the rounds is that the NDA could project him as its presidential candidate next year, banking on his wide political acceptability. Another view is that Kumar might be accommodated in the Union Cabinet with a relatively light portfolio, allowing him to continue influencing Bihar's politics. Given his long administrative experience and stature across parties, few believe he will remain merely a passive presence in Parliament for long.

Name tossing for new Niti chief

The search for a full-time Chief Executive Officer for NITI Aayog has triggered fresh speculation in government circles, even as Nidhi Chhibber currently holds the position on an additional charge. Her temporary assignment began after BVR Subrahmanyam demitted office in February. Initially there was talk she would be confirmed in the post. However, attention is now shifting toward Sanjay Kumar, a senior IAS officer, currently Secretary, School Education and Literacy. Kumar is widely credited for playing a key role in implementing reforms linked to the National Education Policy 2020 and for steering several social sector programmes. With his retirement approaching later this year, the government is weighing whether to appoint him after superannuation or move earlier.

Curious history of AICC's room 11



Sandeep Dikshit's recent appointment as president of the Congress party's new outreach platform, Rachnatmak Congress, has drawn attention for an unusual reason as well. Dikshit has been allotted room 11 at the old AICC headquarters on Akbar Road, a room with a rather curious political history. Several leaders who once operated from there eventually drifted away from Congress. The most recent example is RPN Singh, now a BJP MP and incidentally Dikshit's classmate from St. Stephen's College. Others associated with the room include Birendra Singh, who later became a minister in the Modi government, and Shakeel Ahmed. Asha Kumari, too, once used the office but finds herself politically sidelined. Party insiders are watching with interest what fate awaits Dikshit.

Fresh hope for IIS promotions

A section of Indian Information Service officers hopes that a recent CAT order could finally unlock long-delayed promotions in the cadre. The tribunal has directed the government to revise the seniority list within twelve weeks, raising expectations among officers who have been waiting for career progression for years. Promotions in the service have largely remained frozen since 2018, when a limited number of officers received ad hoc promotions but no major restructuring followed. The seniority dispute has been at the centre of the stalemate. Alongside this, some officers are also pushing for a change in cadre control, arguing that the service should come under the Department of Personnel and Training instead of the I&B Ministry to ensure smoother administrative management.

On Women's Day, Modi lauds Nari Shakti, Prez wants gender gap plugged

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

HIGHLIGHTING the government's commitment towards women-led development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said as India progresses further, the aspirations and contributions of women will continue to guide the country's collective journey towards a strong and prosperous nation.

Extending his greetings to the nation on International Women's Day, he paid tribute to the strength, determination and achievements of 'Nari Shakti'. "Across every field, women are shaping India's progress with determination, creativity and unmatched zeal. Their achievements inspire our nation and strengthen our collective resolve to build a Viksit Bharat," he said on X. "Empowerment of women is at the core of our various schemes and initiatives. We remain committed to creating opportunities that enable every woman to realise her full potential and contribute to India's journey of development."

President Droupadi Murmu said that despite efforts toward empowerment, many obstacles still remain in women's journey of development. Many women face problems such as discrimination, unequal pay for equal work and domestic violence. "These cannot be addressed solely through legislation. A shift in societal mindset is essential. Only when we move beyond the mindset of gender-based discrimination can we truly establish equality in society," she said at an event organised by the Women and Child Development Ministry.

"For our country to progress rapidly and for realising the full potential of citizens for the national benefit, it is essential that we not only inspire women to dream big but also support them at every step in achieving those dreams. In an environment free from fear and discrimination, women can contribute their best towards nation-building," she said. She also said all citizens should pledge to provide education and equal opportunities to every girl and prioritise respect and safety of women.

Indian drug nexus targeting European darknet busted

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH @ New Delhi

A pan-India narcotics distribution network linked to international darknet vendors in the Netherlands, Poland and Germany was uncovered on Sunday with the arrest of two accused, an official of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) said on Sunday.

The federal agency has also seized 2,338 LSD blotters, 160 MDMA pills, 3.6 kg liquid MDMA, charas and amphetamine from multiple parcels, including two consignments, originating from the Netherlands.

Investigations indicate that the network operated through darknet platforms and encrypted messaging services, distributing drugs across India via courier and parcel services while accepting payments through cryptocurrencies to conceal financial trails.

"The darknet vendor 'Team Kalki' was operated by Anurag Thakur along with his associate Vikas Rathi. Both accused are habitual offenders and were previously arrested in cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985," the agency said.

Rathi had earlier been lodged in Tihar Jail in connection with a charas trafficking case, while Anurag Thakur had been imprisoned in a methamphetamine trafficking case. Both were lodged in Tihar Jail for the same time, during which they came together and later operated the darknet drug network "Team Kalki." Initially, the accused were active on the dark web forum "Dread", where the vendor account maintained a four-star rating, indicating successful completion of a large number of orders. After Dread, they expanded their operations to the encrypted Session messaging application.

MODUS OPERANDI

1. Orders received through encrypted platforms like dark web forum 'Dread', Session application
2. Accused would inform associate regarding orders
3. Drugs sent through courier and parcel services

Preliminary investigation indicates that the network had a pan-India distribution footprint and employed sophisticated methods to evade law enforcement detection. It has further been revealed that the accused allegedly sourced LSD and MDMA from international darknet vendors based in countires like the Netherlands, Poland and Germany.

Orders from customers across India were received through encrypted platforms such as the dark web forum "Dread" and the Session messaging application, enabling anonymity and concealment of digital footprints.

EXPRESS READ

AI operates 9 flights with women in cockpit

Air India on Sunday operated nine flights with women crew in the cockpit to mark International Women's Day. The flights connected select international and domestic routes, including London Heathrow, New Delhi and Mumbai. Some of these flights were managed by all-women teams that included pilots, cabin crew, crew roster planning analysts, flight dispatchers, a release said.

CJI bats for institutional reforms in judiciary

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Sunday batted for greater institutional reforms in the judiciary to bring more women into the legal field and said that high court collegiums should consider meritorious women members of the Bar for judgeship as a norm. Addressing an event, the CJI underlined that members Bar must accept a simple reality: women are not seeking concessions.

National tiger body to help create MP-Rajasthan cheetah corridor

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

TAKING note of the recent movement of two cheetahs that have dispersed from Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh to areas in Rajasthan, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), will coordinate with the governments of both states to develop an interstate corridor to facilitate movement of the cheetahs.

Cheetahs KP-2 and KP-3 from KNP were tracked moving into Baran district of Rajasthan. KP-2 has been located in the Mangrol range of Baran, while KP-3 entered the Banjh Amli Conservation Reserve after traveling 60–70 km from KNP. The two cheetahs are positioned approximately 6 km apart on either side of the Parvati River.

Both animals are being monitored 24/7 via GPS and radio collars by a joint inter-state team, with field teams deployed from Kishanganj and Anta ranges. The NTCA stated, "We are actively coordinating with both State Forest Departments and will issue further updates as warranted."

This is not the first instance of cheetahs straying from KNP. Since their introduction in September 2022. There have also been reports of conflicts with humans in surrounding areas.

In its statement, the NTCA said that long-distance dispersal across landscape boundaries is well-documented, and is a natural territorial behavior in cheetahs. The authority underscored Project Cheetah's Action Plan, which addresses the creation of a metapopulation landscape. The corridor aims to connect seven districts in Rajasthan with eight districts in Madhya Pradesh, creating a habitat that spans 17,000 square kilometers.

Project Cheetah is an initiative by the Indian government aimed at reintroducing the cheetah to its historical range in India, where it became extinct in 1952. The plan anticipates and facilitates inter-state movement within the Kuno-Gandhi Sagar metapopulation landscape.

The reintroduction of cheetahs is the world's first intercontinental large wild carnivore translocation project, involving the relocation of cheetahs from countries like Namibia, South Africa, and recently from Botswana to protected areas, primarily Kuno National Park, to help re-establish the species and restore the grassland ecosystem.

Govt seeks 'donations' for Ramayana archive

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Prime Minister's Museum and Library (PMML), under the ministry of culture, has initiated efforts to create a National Repository of Ramayana Manuscripts (NRRM), aimed at preserving rare and ancient versions of the scripture from across India.

NRRM has invited institutions, scholars, individuals, religious bodies, universities, libraries and private collectors to donate rare manuscripts of the Ramayana and related texts. Selected manuscripts will be showcased in Ram Temple and International Ram Katha Museum (IRKM) in Ayodhya.

"Manuscripts may include but are not limited to Valmiki Ramayana, regional versions, commentaries, sub-commentaries, ancillary texts and illustrated manuscripts written on palm leaves or paper...Relevant and outstanding scripts will be exhibited at Ram Temple and IRKM albeit after proper scrutiny and validation by a committee set up for the purpose," said officials.

The collection will be properly conserved, preserved and digitised for the future generation. It will be available to scholars for research purposes. It will also help people understand the great extent of Indian art and literature —Sanjib Kumar Singh, Director, IRKM

The Committee to verify and validate the donations comprises two domain experts, representatives of the culture ministry and National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) with the director of IRKM Sanjib Kumar Singh as its convener.

Briefing about the initiative, Singh, who is also dealing with the potential donors and contributors, said that the idea is to preserve and place all literature related to Lord Ram available in the country at one place.

"The collection will be properly conserved, preserved and digitised for the future generation. It will be available to scholars for research purposes. It will also help people understand the great extent of Indian art and literature," he added.

The PMML will accept manuscripts composed in Sanskrit, other Indian languages and traditional Indian scripts.

Since the notice seeking contribution of ancient manuscripts was published, Singh has received more than 100 queries. Those willing to donate have been asked to communicate their intention with details including title of the manuscript, age, script used, material form, size and folio numbers. The text holders should also share a video sample and colour photographs of the first and last pages of their possession. The PMML will not accept published material, officials clarified.

Earlier, this newspaper reported that the PMML had planned to collect authenticated versions of Ramayana in different languages to be kept at one level of sanctum sanctorum hence it would invite individuals to donate.

In January, the Vice Chancellor of the Central Sanskrit University handed over a 233-year-old Valmiki Ramayana to the Chairman of the Executive Council of PMML.

UP IN ARMS

Four cops were hurt after villagers protesting the death of a 70-year-old man run over by a dumper in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district pelted stones at them, officials said on Sunday.

2 WOMEN — CIVIC STAFFERS DIE BY SUICIDE IN GANDHINAGAR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	23	Mumbai	34	25
Bhopal	35	21	Panaji	31	24
Jaipur	36	20	Patna	32	23
Amritsar	33	19	Lucknow	35	21
Chennai	29	24	Port Blair	28	27
Kolkata	32	23	Imphal	28	16
Srinagar	16	07	Chandigarh	34	19

Shah calls Samrat to Delhi for next CM talks, Nishant formally in JDU

Nitish likely to have say on successor, may keep watch on govt functioning, reveal sources

RAMASHANKAR & RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna/New Delhi

HOURS after Nishant Kumar, son of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, formally joined the JD(U) on Sunday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah summoned Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Samrat Choudhary to New Delhi.

Choudhary's visit to New Delhi has fuelled speculation over change of leadership in the state after Nitish filed his nomination papers for the March 16 Rajya Sabha elections. Sources said that the proposed visit will be centred around Nitish's successor. "It's true that Choudhary is expected to visit the national capital, exact reason for his visit has not been mentioned by Shah or any other leader of the party so far. But the meeting has fuelled speculation over the formation of a new government in the state," a senior BJP leader said.

Choudhary also holds the home portfolio, which was earlier with Nitish. Sources said the BJP's central leadership has started internal discussions over potential successor after Nitish moves to the Rajya Sabha. According to political observers, a new chief minister could be announced in the coming days if Nitish formally resigns from his post after accepting membership of the Upper House.

JD(U) national working president Sanjay Jha (left) presents a membership slip to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's son Nishant Kumar in Patna on Sunday | PTI

'Will carry on legacy of my father,' says Nishant

After joining the party, Nishant Kumar said he would work under guidance of his father, who ruled the state for nearly 20 years. Nishant further noted that his father Nitish has done immense work for the state's development and pledged to carry forward his legacy.

The term of five Rajya Sabha MPs from Bihar expires on April 9. Earlier in the day, Nishant formally joined the JD(U) at the state party headquarters in the presence of senior leaders, including national working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, Union minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lallan Singh and several state ministers. Nitish was not present on the occasion. While Jha administered party's membership to Nishant, Lallan Singh honoured him by tying party's turban.

After joining the party, Nishant said he would work under guidance of his father, who ruled the state for nearly 20 years. "Today I came here to join the party. My father has decided to go to the Rajya Sabha, and it is his decision. We will work in Bihar under his guidance," he told party leaders. Nishant said his father has done immense work for state's development and pledged to carry forward his legacy. "I pledge to carry out remaining works of my father," he asserted. "Whatever responsibility is assigned to me by the party, I will fulfil them with my utmost dedication," he said.

JD(U) MLC Neeraj Kumar said Nishant would begin visiting different parts of Bihar soon to know about people's problems. Sources within JD(U) indicated that Nishant may begin his visit from Champaran region, a favourite place of state's politicians to launch their outreach programmes.

A buzz in political circles doing the rounds is that the JD(U) may have agreed to the political transition with a condition Nitish would have a say in the selection of the BJP's CM face. "This will be a first within the NDA. Nitish will continue provide guidelines in the larger interest of the NDA government and the state," a JD(U) leader said.

Within the party, lobbying for the top job has intensified, with several leaders seeking support in Bihar and Delhi. Analysts say the BJP's central leadership faces a significant test in navigating Bihar's evolving political landscape. "If the BJP fails to make a better CM, then RJD will benefit from it. For its long future, the party should elect a person who has emerged from its organisation and ideology," a BJP leader said.

Himanta announces sops for women, 40 lakh to receive ₹9,000 on Mar 10

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

COME March 10, election-bound Assam's 40 lakh "Orunodoi" beneficiaries will receive ₹9,000 each from the state government. Orunodoi is a flagship social welfare programme launched by the state government in 2020, providing monthly direct benefit transfers to empower women from economically disadvantaged families.

Under it, each beneficiary receives ₹ 1,250 per month.

Going live on Facebook on International Women's Day on Sunday, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the state's 40 lakh Orunodoi families would receive ₹9,000 each on March 10.

He further stated that every panchayat and ward in Assam, along with areas in Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao and Bodoland, will organise a meeting on that day, during which the money will be disbursed. He urged the beneficiary families to attend the meetings at the designated places.

He stated that it would be a record of sorts when ₹3,600 crore would be given to the beneficiaries as a mark of respect in a single day on March 10.

"It is because of your inspiration that we could take this bold step," the chief minister further said.

Earlier, he had announced that payment for four months from January this year, along with an additional amount for Bohag Bihu (also known as Rongali Bihu), would be made in March.

On Sunday morning, Sarma posted on X, "Empowering women has been central to Assam's growth story. From financial security to education, healthcare and entrepreneurship, our initiatives are helping lakhs of women step forward with confidence and independence…"

In another post, he wrote, "One right vote can change the voice inside every home. The focus of @BJP4Assam has been to empower Assam's #NariShakti, and every action of ours has reflected this belief. This effort will continue with more rigour in the coming days. Choose wisely, choose BJP." The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said Assam made incredible strides for women.

RAIPUR DIARY

EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

Haj 2026: Record 815 pilgrims from C'garh

Marking a milestone since the formation of Chhattisgarh, a record 815 pilgrims from as many as 29 districts of the state are set to embark on the Haj 2026 pilgrimage. The largest-ever contingent includes 417 men and 398 women, reflecting a significant turnout for the holy journey. State Haj Committee Chairman Mirza Ejaz Beg announced that the mandatory medical screening and vaccination process has been successfully concluded as mandated by the Saudi government and guidelines from the Directorate General of Health Services, Delhi. The state health department facilitated these services across 29 district hospitals.

BJP, Cong field women candidates in RS polls

With two seats up for grab in the biennial Rajya Sabha elections in the state, the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress have each fielded a woman candidate in the fray. Laxmi Verma is a prominent OBC leader within the BJP, and Phulo Devi Netam, representing the Congress as a key tribal face, is seeking a second term. Currently, both seats are held by the Congress in the state. However, given the current strength of the state assembly—where the BJP holds 54 seats and the Congress 35 (after 2023 Assembly polls)—the outcome is expected to result in each party winning one seat.

Raising awareness against child marriage

The Bal Vivah Mukti Rath, a unique campaign on wheels that travelled across hundreds of villages, reaching over 3,30,360 people and covering a distance of 52,295 km across the state with the message of a child marriage-free Chhattisgarh, culminated on International Women's Day. Launched by Just Rights for Children as part of the Government of India's 100 Days Intensive Campaign to End Child Marriage, the campaign saw over 500 similar Bal Vivah Mukti Rath vehicles traverse the length and breadth of the country, mobilising and sensitising the communities about the laws against child marriage.

KEDARNATH

Missing sacred sceptre causes alarm at shrine

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

A cloud of mystery has descended upon the sacred portals of Kedarnath following reports that the 'Roop Chhad'— considered to be an embodiment of Lord Kedarnath himself—is currently missing from the safe custody of the Badri Kedar Temple Committee (BKTC).

The disappearance of the invaluable silver sceptre has triggered a state-wide uproar, prompting the Uttarakhand government to launch a high-level inquiry into the alleged negligence of the temple management body.

The 'Roop Chhad' is a cherished religious icon that accompanies the 'Chal Vigraha Doli' (the movable idol) during religious processions. Ancient tradition dictates that any sacred symbol or ritualistic object associated with the Char Dham is considered the 'private property' of the deity. As such, these items are prohibited from being moved outside temple premises for external purposes, said priest Pandit Ashok Tiwari. The Badri Kedar Temple Committee (BKTC) is mandated to ensure the security of these assets.

Decision to resign was 'conscious', says outgoing West Bengal governor

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

FOUR days after suddenly resigning from his post, former West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose broke his silence on Sunday, describing his abrupt exit as a "conscious decision" even as buzz continued in political circles about what led to his unexpected exit.

While speaking to reporters at the Kolkata airport on Sunday upon his return from the national capital, Bose said the reason behind his resignation will remain confidential till the right time arrives. A native of Kerala, he had shifted his voting base to Bengal barely a week before tendering resignation from his office. Calling himself a "proud voter of Bengal," Bose said he would return to the state to cast his vote during the Assembly elections.

Looking back at his three and a half years as the constitutional head of the state, he compared his tenure to a game of cricket. "I spent over 1200 days in office. That's equivalent to scoring 12 centuries on the cricket field. The rules of the game include knowing when it ends," Bose expressed.

Will vote in Bengal polls

A native of Kerala, CV Ananda Bose had shifted his voting base to Bengal barely a week before tendering resignation from his office. Calling himself a "proud voter of Bengal," Bose said he would return to the state to cast his vote in the state elections.

When asked about his thoughts on the row that has broken out over alleged protocol lapses during President Droupadi Murmu's recent visit to Bengal, he said, "Our President is an impartial, experienced and respectable woman. There might be some reason behind her comments. I am no one to comment on it."

Notably, CM Mamata Banerjee has claimed that Bose was forced to resign in the face of threats by the BJP top brass.

Women stay in focus, farmers lose out in Mann's last budget

HARPRET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

WITH less than a year left for assembly elections, AAP-led Punjab government on Sunday presented the budget for 2026-27 with an allocation of ₹2,60,437 crore. The government announced the much-awaited 'Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhian Satikar Yojana' (Chief Minister's Respect for Mother and Daughters Scheme) with an outlay of ₹9,300 crore, fulfilling its promise of monthly cash transfer to women.

Under the scheme, the government will transfer money directly to women's bank accounts. Women belonging to general and other categories will receive ₹1,000 per month, while those belonging to Scheduled Castes will get ₹1,500. Income tax payees, present and former permanent government employees, sitting or former MPs and MLAs will not be eligible. This was a key promise of the ruling party before the 2022 assembly polls. The scheme has been launched nearly four years after Bhagwant Mann became the CM. "This will be the biggest cash transfer scheme, and registration to avail the benefits will start in April," Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said.

PUNJAB PROMISE

1. The total budget outlay is ₹2,60,437 crore
2. Revenue deficit estimated at 2.06% of GSDP
3. Fiscal deficit is at 4.08% of the GSDP
4. GDP projected to reach ₹9,80,635 crore

The proposed budget expenditure aims to balance aggressive welfare spending with fiscal discipline in the run-up to the 2027 Assembly elections. A sum of ₹18,304 crore has been proposed for the social welfare and justice department, including ₹360 crore for the Ashirwad Scheme and ₹261 crore for post-matric scholarships.

The proposed power subsidy has been scaled down to ₹15,550 crore, compared to ₹20,500 crore in the 2025-26 budget estimates, following a recent Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission order. Cheema announced ₹15,377 crore for agriculture and allied sectors. Farmer organisations have termed it an election-oriented Budget that does not provide a clear roadmap for strengthening agriculture or improving rural livelihoods.

In a major healthcare push, ₹2,000 crore has been allotted for the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna, which provides ₹10 lakh annual health cover per family. Calling the budget "misleading", the Opposition questioned how the AAP government would arrange funds to fulfil its promise of providing ₹1,000 per month to women. Leader of the Opposition and Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa said, "The budget is nothing more than a bundle of grand announcements."

The total revenue receipts for Punjab in 2026–27 are projected at ₹1,26,190 crore. Of this, ₹70,851 crore will come from the state's own tax revenue.

Woman walks 350 km to protest chit-fund scam

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

SARASWATI Devi, a social activist from Srinagar, Uttarakhand, has proven that determination can move mountains. In a remarkable show of resilience, the activist has reached the national capital after a grueling 350-kilometre foot march, carrying with her the hopes of 1.5 lakh investors devastated by the Loni Urban Multi-State Credit & Thrift Co-operative Society (LUCC) chit-fund scam.

Arriving on International Women's Day, her mission is not political, but personal and collective. She represents thousands of homemakers whose lifelong savings—money intended for the education of their children or their future security—have been reduced to nothing by one of the largest financial frauds to hit the hill state.

"This is the cry of families who lost everything in a single stroke," Saraswati Devi told this daily upon reaching Delhi. "We are not here merely to protest; we have come with the hope that the President will listen to our plight and understand the scale of this suffering."

The march, which began in Srinagar Garhwal, wound its way through Devprayag, Rishikesh, Haridwar, Roorkee, Muzaffarnagar, and Ghaziabad. Despite the physical toll, Devi remained steadfast. Her decision to march to the president's residence came after several failed attempts to secure justice through local administrative channels, including petitions submitted to the SDM and DM, which yielded no satisfactory results.

Devi, known in Uttarakhand for her active involvement in social causes—including her vocal fight for justice in the Ankita Bhandari murder case—has declared that she will not return home until she secures a meeting with the country's highest office and receives assurances on the investigation.

The LUCC chit-fund scam, estimated at roughly ₹800 crore, has crippled the economic stability of countless households across Uttarakhand. The modus operandi was simple yet devastating: victims were lured with the promise of exorbitant interest rates on their investments, only for the company's offices to vanish overnight.

While the CBI is probing the fraud and has proposed a centralised online portal to consolidate victim data, survivors remain skeptical and exhausted.

The investigation also intersects with other financial irregularities, specifically involving the company 'Myfledge'. Key accused individuals, including Shabab Hussain Rizvi, Bishwajit Ghosh, and Piyali Chatterjee, are under scrutiny.

Saraswati Devi with supporters near Modinagar

INVESTORS AT RISK

AFFECTED REGIONS
Dehradun, Haridwar, Pauri, Chamoli, Tehri, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar and Nainital

SCALE OF IMPACT
Investors: Over **1.5 lakh** individuals
Estimated fraud amount: Approx **₹800 cr**
Cases registered: **18**

POLICE ACTION
Arrests: **8** accused individuals in custody
Lookout circulars: Issued against four key suspects
Asset seizure: Proceedings to attach properties of accused under way

Vaishno Devi college seeks govt nod to restart MBBS course after controversy

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

TWO months after being derecognised, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) in J&K's Reasi has reapplied to the National Medical Commission (NMC) seeking recognition and a Letter of Permission (LoP) to start an MBBS course for 50 students from the academic year 2026-27.

SMVDIME's LoP was withdrawn for allegedly failing to meet essential standards amid controversy over the admission of Muslim students.

A faculty member of the medical college told this newspaper that the SMVDIME has again approached the NMC for seeking the LoP for starting an MBBS course for 50 seats beginning next academic year, 2026-27. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board manages and funds the SMVDIME. "The SMVDIME has completed all formalities and submitted a new application to the NMC in February only. We have also paid a mandatory inspection and processing fee between ₹5 lakh and ₹10 lakh to the NMC," the faculty member said.

On January 8, the NMC cancelled the LoP granted to SMVDIME in September 2025 to run a 50-seat MBBS course for the 2025–26 academic year, citing shortcomings. The decision came amid controversy over the admission of 42 Muslim students and one Sikh in the first MBBS batch of 50, triggering protests by Hindu groups who argued that admissions should be restricted to Hindus as the institution is funded by offerings from Hindu devotees.

Sources said it is unclear if any changes will be made to the admission process if recognition is restored. "There is no clarity yet whether there will be any quota system or whether the admission policy will be different from before ".

They, however, said the institute is now preparing for a possible inspection by the regulatory body. "The faculty members and staff members have been asked to prepare for the NMC inspection, which may likely take place in April-May ". As per regulations, a team of four assessors from NMC would visit the campus for inspection.

583
Afghan Taliban operatives killed in ongoing border operation, says Pakistan

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Iran hits Gulf infra as Israeli strike targets Tehran oil facility

KUWAIT CITY

IRAN struck Gulf infrastructure Sunday, hitting fuel tanks at Kuwait's airport and a desalination plant in Bahrain, with at least four reported dead in the region as Tehran pressed its campaign there into a second week. In Saudi Arabia, the civil defence said a "military projectile" killed two people — an Indian and a Bangladeshi — and injured 12 others after it fell in a residential area in Al-Kharj governorate south of Riyadh.

In Kuwait, two border guards were killed "while performing their national duty", the interior ministry said, without elaborating on the circumstances. Gulf countries have borne much of Tehran's response after the US and Israel launched a massive air campaign against Iran, with 18 people, 10 of them civilians, killed in the Gulf states since the war began, according to an AFP tally.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian warned Sunday that the Islamic republic "will be forced to respond" against its neighbours if their territory was used to attack it.

On Saturday, the president had apologised to neighbouring countries hosting US military bases for attacks on their land.Gulf countries have said their territory has not been used in attacks against Iran, and before the war began they repeatedly said they would not allow such a move.

Video grab shows fire erupting at an oil depot in Iran's capital Tehran | AFP

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait all reported new attacks on Sunday. Fuel tanks at Kuwait's international airport were targeted in a drone attack, the military said. The official Kuwait News Agency said a fire at the airport was brought under control, reporting no "significant injuries".

The military called the drone attack "a direct targeting of vital infrastructure".A separate statement said "some civilian facilities sustained material damage as a result of falling fragments and debris from interception operations".

Kuwait's national oil company announced a "precautionary" cut to its crude production, as the country's military said Sunday that it had responded to several drone and missile attacks. *AFP*

Israel hits Lebanon after Netanyahu promises 'surprises'

DUBAI

ISRAEL renewed its assault on southern Lebanon early Sunday, including targeting commanders of the Lebanese branch of Iran's Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised "many surprises" for the next phase of the conflict. The Israeli military said in a statement that it would "not allow Iranian terrorist elements to establish themselves in Lebanese territory."

The latest strikes in Lebanon followed an Israeli attack Saturday on an oil storage facility in Tehran, which sent up pillars of fire that could be seen in Associated Press video as a glow against the night sky.

It appeared to be the first time a civil industrial facility has been targeted in the war. State media blamed "an attack from the US and the Zionist regime" at the site that supplies the capital and neighboring provinces in the north.

Elsewhere, Kuwait authorities said two border guards were killed when the Gulf country was hit by a swarm of missiles and drones. The Interior Ministry said only that the guards were killed "while performing their national duty." No other details were available.

Israeli airstrikes killed eight people in southern Lebanon, the Lebanese Health Ministry said, and local media reported that an Israeli drone hit a hotel in Beirut, killing four and wounding 10 others.

The deaths come on top of at least 47 others killed Saturday in Israeli strikes.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian apologized Saturday for attacks on "neighbouring countries," even as his country's missiles and drones flew toward Gulf Arab states and hard-liners asserted that Tehran's war strategy would not change. A rift between politicians looking to de-escalate the war and others committed to battling the United States and Israel could complicate any diplomatic efforts. *AP*

First aid responders inspect the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a neighborhood in the southern Lebanese village of Ghaziyeh | AFP

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general Public that my client is intended to purchase the below mentioned schedule Property from the Present owners **Smt. Supriya.G, W/o Sri. Range Gowda, H.T, and D/o Sri. Gopalaiah@ Gopal V.K,** and **Sri. Sunil G,** S/o Sri. Gopalaiah @ Gopal V.K,

Any person/s having any right, claim, title, interest or possession over the above said property may file their objection/s to the under signed with valid documentary proof, **within 7 days** from the date of publication of this notice and if no valid objection/s are received within above said stipulated time, my client will proceed to purchase the above said property with assumption that, there are no objections or claim or title or interest or possession whatsoever nature from any person/s. Any objection received thereafter will not be entertained and my client will proceed to purchase the below mentioned schedule Property in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Survey No.4/2 measuring 08 (Eight)** guntas out of 25 (Twenty Five) Guntas, situated at **Varturu Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk,** and bounded on the:
East by: Nelamangala to Kengere Road, **West by :** Sy.No.4/1 land, **North by :** Land of Narasimhayya and Government Oni, **South by :** Remaining Portion of Same Sy Number.

VAAGESHWARI ASSOCIATES, Advocates
No.47, Jayadatta Mansion, 5th Cross,
5th Main Road, Malleshwaram,
Bangalore-560 003.
Ph: 9844233994, 9448808844

Place: Bengaluru, Date: 9th March, 2026

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BANGALORE

4th Floor, BSNL Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru- 560 001

Original Application No.1274/2024

Between : **STATE BANK OF INDIA,** RACPC Malleshwaram (Lending Branch), Represented by its Chief Manager, Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, (SARB), Mr. Nagendra N, J. C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002 , Email ID : sbi.05173@ sbi.co.in, PAN No.AAACS8577K IFSC Code : SBIN0005173, Mobile No. 9448686183

...Applicant

AND

Mr. Umesh Rao & Another

....Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANT No. 1 & 2 THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To : 1. Mr. Umesh Rao N S/o. Nagurao Thannoji Rao, Aged about 40 Years, No. 23/1, Ground Floor 4th Road, Mathikere, Bangalore North, Karnataka - 560 054.
Having Office Address: M/s. IPSOL Health Care Pvt. Ltd., No. 16, Padmavat Arcade, 2nd Floor, Unit-3, 1st Main Road, NR Colony, Bangalore - 560 004.

2. Sri A. K. Raghu, Proprietorship Firm, No. 2, 8th Main, IOB Bank Lane Balaji Layout, Kodigehalli, Bangalore - 560 004.

1. WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against Defendant for Recovery sum of **Rs.64,40,308/-** (Rupees Sixty Four Lakhs Forty Thousand Three Hundred and Eight Only)

2.The above mentioned Defendant is directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorised agent in support of your defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **10.04.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

3.Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on this the **28.11.2025** at Bangalore.

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bengaluru

IN THE COURT OF THE 10th ADITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU P & S.C. No. 133 of 2026 (CCH-26)

BETWEEN: 1. Devagiri Sri Guru Seva Samithi, a Society registered under Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960, having its Regd. Office at No.24, 24th Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 070, represented by its Secretary, Sri C.V. Dwarkinath. **2. Sri C.V. Dwarkinath,** son of Sri C.Y. Venkatrao, aged about 68 years, No.1095, 16th Cross, 25th Main, Banashankari II Stage, Bengaluru-560 070. Secretary, Devagiri Sri Guru Seva Samithi ...
PETITIONERS

AND: NIL ... RESPONDENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS the Petitioners above named have filed a petition under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for the grant of probate of the Will dated 02.03.2011 (registered as Document No.JAY-3-00314-2010-11 stored in CD JAYD125 in the Office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bengaluru) executed by Late Smt. K. Phanivani in respect of the Schedule Properties who passed away on 25.07.2023.

Interested parties are hereby summoned to appear before this Court X Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru, (CCH No. 26) in person or through Pleader, duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to this petition, on the **15-04-2026** at 11:00 A.M., to show cause against the Petitioners, failing which the matter will be proceeded with ex-parte.

SCHEDULE 'A'

(Immovable Properties)

All that piece and parcel of house property bearing Municipal No.1910, 31st Cross, 9th Main, Banashankari II Stage, Bengaluru - 560 070, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 feet in all 2400 square feet and bounded as follows: On the East By: Property bearing No.1909, West by : Property bearing No.1911, North by : Property bearing No.1925, South by : Road.

SCHEDULE - B

(Movable Properties)

1. LIC Bima Varishta policy No 722771660
2. LIC Jeevan Anand policy No 722772661
3. Savings A/c No 7122 and Fixed Deposit/s in Indian Overseas Bank, Banashankari II Stage, Bangalore
4. Savings A/c No 1328 and Fixed Deposit/s in Canara Bank, Banashankari II Stage, Bangalore.
5. Maruthi 800 car bearing No KA 05-6367
6. Kinetic Honda Scooter bearing No KA 05 X 3527
7. Telephone bearing No 26710281 installed in the Schedule-A property

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on 04-03-2026.

By order of the court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

M/s. SUNDARASWAMY & RAMDAS, Advocates
No.24, "Keshava Nivas", Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560 009.

IN THE COURT OF XVII ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU P & SC No.657/2025 (CCH-16)

BETWEEN: Sri Govardangiri, S/o. C.Krishnappa, aged about 55 Years, R/at. No.7-B, 'A' Narayanapuram, Doorvani Nagar Post, Bangalore-560016... **PETITIONER**

AND: 1. Sri K.Appanna, S/o. C.Krishnappa, R/at. No.7-B, 'A' Narayanpuram, Doorvani Nagar Post, Bangalore-560016. **2. Sri K. Nirmala,** D/o. C.Krishnappa, aged 65 Years, R/at. No.7-B, 'A' Narayanpuram, Doorvani Nagar Post, Bangalore-560016. **3. Smt. K.Sujatha,** D/o. C.Krishnappa, aged 57 Years, R/at. No.7-B, 'A' Narayanpuram, Doorvani Nagar Post, Bangalore-560016. **4. Smt. K.Rajeshwari,** D/o. C.Krishnappa, aged 50 Years, R/at. No.7-B, 'A' Narayanpuram, Doorvani Nagar Post, Bangalore-560016... **RESPONDENTS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the petitioner named above have filed the petition to this Hon'ble Court under Section 222 and 276 of Indian Succession Act for the grant of Probate in favour of the petitioner in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has held by Late Smt. S.A.Jayalakshmamma who expired on 26-08-2003, who is the mother of the petitioner and Respondent No. 1 to 4.

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before the Court in person or by pleader duly instructed on **23-03-2026** at 11:00 A.M. inform to show cause against the petitioner failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Exparte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

ITEM No.1: Chakkubandi for property bearing Site No. 6 & 7, Account No. 166, Property No. 10/2 situated at B. Narayanpura under the jurisdiction of present Mahadevpura Nagar Sabha, Bangalore East Taluk, Krishnarajpura Hobli: To the **East:** Site No. 8, To the **West:** Site No. 5 West, To the **North:** Road, To the **South:** Private property.

The site number 6 measures east to west: 30 feet and north to south (42+39)/2 feet and site number 7 measures east to west: 30 feet and north to south: (44+42)/2 feet thus measuring a vacant plot property.

ITEM No.2: Chakkubandi for property bearing Site No. 16, Account No. 166, Property No.10/2 situated at B. Narayanpura under the jurisdiction of present Mahadevpura Nagar Sabha, Bangalore East Taluk, Krishnarajpura Hobli: To the **East:** Site No. 17, To the **West:** Site number 15, To the **North:** Road, To the **South:** Private Property,

The property is a vacant plot measuring 30 feet from east to west and 25 feet from north to south.

ITEM No.3: Chakkubandi for the property bearing Site No. 18 & 19, Account No.166, Property No.10/2 situated at B. Narayanpura under the jurisdiction of present Mahadevpura Nagar Sabha, Bangalore East Taluk, Krishnarajpura Hobli: To the **East:** site No-20, To the **West:** site no-17, To the **North:** Road, To the **South:** Personal Property.

The Site No. 18 East to West: 30 feet North to South: 24 feet and Site No. 19, East to West: 30 feet North to South: (24+26)/2 feet is a bit of free space measured like this.

ITEM No.4: Chakkubandi for the property bearing Site No. 11 & 32, Account No. 166, Property No. 10/2 at B. Narayanpura under present Mahadevpura Nagar Sabha, Bangalore East Taluk, Krishnarajpura Hobli: To the **East:** Site no:30, To the **West:** Site no:33, To the **North:** Road, To the **South:** private property.

The site number 31 measuring east to west: 30 feet and north to south: (37+39)/2 feet and site number 32 measuring east to west: 30 feet and north to south: (39+41)/2 feet thus measuring a vacant plot property.

ITEM No.5: Chakkubandi for the property bearing Site No. 43, Account No. 166, Property No. 10/2 situated at B. Narayanpura under the jurisdiction of present Mahadevpura Nagar Sabha, Bangalore East Taluk, Krishnarajpura Hobli: To the **East:** Site No. 42, To the **West:** Road, To the **North:** Road, To the **South:** Property of Giddamma.

A vacant lot property measuring as follows: East to West : (34+39)/2 feet and North to South: (30+42)/2 feet to this centre point.

ITEM No.6: Chakku Bandi for property bearing Site Nos. 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 and 52/B, Account No. 166, Property No. 10/2 situated at B. Narayanpura under the present Mahadevpura Nagar Sabha, Bangalore East Taluk, Krishnarajpura Hobli: To the **East:** Site No 53, To the **West:** Site No. 44, to the **North:** Road, to the **South:** Private property.

This Site No. 45 East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 39 feet, Site No. 46 East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 39 feet, Site No. 47 East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 38 feet, Site No. 48 East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 38 feet, Site No. 49 East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 38 feet, Site No. 50 East to West: 30 feet and North to South: (38+40)/2 feet, Site No. 51 East to West: 30 feet and north to south: 40 feet and site no. 52/b east to west: 15 feet and north to south: 40 feet, these Properties measuring one.

ITEM No.7: Chakkubandi for property bearing Site No. 55, Account No. 166, Property No. 10/2 situated at B. Narayanpura under the jurisdiction of present Mahadevpura Nagar Sabha, Bangalore East Taluk, Krishnarajpura Hobli: To the **East:**Site No. 56, To the **West:** Site No. 54, To the **North:** Road, To the **South:** Private property.

The property is a vacant lot measuring 40 feet from east to west and 40 feet from north to south.

ITEM No.8: Chakkubandi to a property measuring East to West : 100 feet and North to South: 50 feet in Survey No. 66/5 of land belonging to Village Adugodi, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk: To the **East:** Adugodi-Hosur road, To the **West:** Government Rock, To the **North:** Property of S.A. Krishnappa, To the **South:** Property of Thiagalam Subbaiah Shetty.

This central property is one of the above area.

ITEM No.9: Chakkubandi For the enjoyment land property measuring OA 10 Guntas (Ten Guntas) in land Survey No. 17/2 belonging to Village Bilekahalli, Begur Hobli, Bangalore Dakshina Taluk, To the **East:** Muniveerappa, To the **West:** Setupallaya kempanna's Property, To the **North:** Highway, To the **South:** B.Chanappa's Land.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this on 03-03-2026.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

ANKITA PATIL, Advocate
Shantimati Krupa, 39th C Cross, Jayanagar 5th Block, Bangalore-560041.

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S, LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower and the public in general are here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon,

The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount	Description of the Property
MR. PRASANNA KUMAR N Loan A/c No. 410200007444 410200007515 Symbolic Possession Date : 04/03/2026	17/11/2025	Rs. 3889554.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All the piece and parcel of the Site No.75, Presently under the jurisdiction of BBMP limits bearing Municipal No.75, PID No.45-17-75, measuring 20+18 / 2 + 40+32/2, in all total 684 sq. feet consisting of 2 square AC Sheet House, with nati bricks and jungle wood doors and windows, red oxide flooring situated at Division No.36 (old 0 and Present No.45, Bhaktamarkandeya Layout, Bangalore and bounded on the : East by: Drain, West by: Road, North by: Site No.74, South by: Remaining portion of the same site of Thimmarayappa
MR. SUBRAMANYAM VISHWANATHAIAH MOHANKUMAR Loan A/c no. 410100011834 Physical Possession Date : 04/03/2026	21/07/2025	Rs. 1455264.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Vacant immovable property bearing Vacant Site No.172, in the layout named as 'GREEN CITY'. The Schedule Property falls formed in Sy. No.19 & 20, duly converted {vide Official Memorandum No. ALN(NAHM) SR/13/15-16, dated 15/07/2016 passed by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore} Land bearing Sy. No.10/3, extent 0-05 Guntas, Sy. No.15/1, extent 0-29 Guntas, Sy. No. 15/2, extent 0-12 guntas, Sy. No.15/3, extent 0-12 guntas, sy No.16, extent 1Acre 08 guntas, Sy. No.19, extent 1 Acre 10 guntas, Sy. No. 20, extent 0-38 guntas, Sy. No. 21/3, extent 0-26 guntas, Sy. No.22, extent 1Acre 12 guntas & 0-01 gunta kharab, total 1Acre 13 guntas Sy.No.23/1, extent 0-06-08 guntas, Sy.No.23/2, extent 30.08 guntas & 0.01 gunta Kharab, totally 31.08 guntas, Sy. No.24/1, extent 0-19 guntas, Sy. No.24/2, extent 0-24 gunats & 0.01gunta, total 0-25 guntas, in all totally 8 Acre 35 Guntas, Proeprty (E-Swathu)) ID No. 150200200200120103, situated at Kalathammanahalli Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, Bangalore – 560089. Vacant Site measuring East to West: 40-0 feet and North to South: 30-0 feet total measuring 1200 sq. Ft. Equivalent to 1.10 G together with all rights appurtenances whatsoever underneath or above the surface and bounded as follows: East by: Road, West by: Site No.168, North by: Site No.171, South by: Site No.173.
MR. KIRAN L Loan A/c No. 4002210000483 Physical Possession Date : 04/03/2026	19/08/2025	Rs. 4845865.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY ; All that piece and parcel of the converted land bearing Site No.28 the said site formed in sy. No. 80/3 (Old Sy. No.80/1) measuring to an extent of East to West: 70 Feet and North to South: 33.58 feet totally measuring 2350 Sq. Ft., and duly converted for Non-Agricultural to Residential Purpose Vide Conversion Order No. ALN. SR (S).18/1996-97 Dated 28.10.1997 issued by the Asst. Commissioner, Bangalore Sub-Division, Bangalore, situated at Vabasandra Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk and bounded as follows: East by: Site No.24 and Site No.25, West by: Road and, North by: Site No.27, South by: Site No.60.
MR. NAVEEN KUMAR N MS. REDDY RAMYA G K MR.MADHU K (GUARANTOR) Loan A/c no. 412200002504 412200004126 412200004634 Symbolic Possession Date :04/03/2026	03/12/2025	Rs. 6032709.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing House List No.557/16 (Site No.16), Katha No.183, E-katha No.150200103200101950, Property No.183/557/16, measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: (38 ¼ +39 ¾) Feet, in all measuring 1560 Square feet of site which was formed in converted Sy.No.26/10, official Memorandum order bearing No.BDIS.ALN.SR (A) 15/91-92, Dated 22.08.1992. situated at Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk Bangalore District, Bounded on the: East by: Road, West by: House Property No.558/17, North by: House Property No.556/15, South by: Road.
MR. SURESH KUMAR P Loan A/c no. 410100010014 Physical Possession Date : 04/03/2026	17/01/2026	Rs. 487215.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing Vacant Site No.90, Portion of V.P.Khata No.551/48/1, PID No.150200203500220359, formed out of Residential converted Old Sy.No.48/1, New Sy No.48/4, Layout called "GARDEN CITY",(converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide conversion order No. ALN: (NAY) SR:156/2010-11, dated 05/09/2011, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore), situated at Mediagrahara Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Vidyaranya Post, Bangalore North Tq, Bangalore – 560097, measuring East to West: 41.5 feet and North to South: 19.5 feet, in all total measuring 809.25 sq.ft., and bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Private Property,North by: Site No.91, South by: Site No.80(First Phase of Garden City).
MR. DINESH DOSHI MS. KALAVATHI D DOSHI Loan A/c No. 412200003318 Symbolic Possession Date : 04/03/2026	17/12/2025	Rs. 3755353.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Residential Unit/Flat bearing No.201, situated in the Second Floor of the apartment named "VMAKS Residency" with super built up area of 1450 Square feet along with covered car Parking slot at the entrance of the stilt floor area of the said apartment with undivided right, title, interest & share to an extent 405 square feet in the sital area constructed over the property bearing No.91 (PID No.46-4-91) situated at 2nd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore in corporation Ward No.46 (Chamarajpet Ward) measuring East to West 30 feet, North to South: 108 feet in all measuring 3240 square feet & bounded on the entire land: East by: Property of Mr. Venkatagiriyappa, West by: Property of Mrs. Manikyamma, North by: 2nd Main Road, Chamarajpet (High Road) & South by: Conservancy Lane.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 09.03.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II

AT CHENNAI
(6 th Floor, Additional Buidings, Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Chennai –600006)
O.A.No. 684 of 2025

Indian Bank, Arakonam Branch, Ranipet District ..Applicant
Vs.
1. Mrs. G.Sridevi & Another ...Defendants

To
1. Mr. G.Laxman s/o Ganesh Ramasamy 1/14, EVR Periyar Street, Sri Ambal Nagar, Tiruvallur street, Ramapuram Chennai - 600089
Also at: 143, Aradhana Apartment Flat B 203, 1st Main Road, Behind Nalanda Theatre, Chamarajpet, Bangalore South- 560018

Please take notice that the above matter is posted for hearing on 01.4.2026. Please make it convenient to be present before the said Tribunal on the said date at 11.00 A.M either in person or through a pleader, failing which the matter shall be heard and decided in your absence.

M/s T.Sundar Rajan
Bhargavi Sundar Rajan, Advocates
327, Linghi Chetty Street, Chennai - 600001
Place: Ranipet, Date:09-03-2026

LOST DOCUMENTS

I, Amarnath T, No. 514, 2nd B Cross, 14th Main Road, Gokula 1st Stage, 1st Phase, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560054, I have lost the BDA Original Allotment Letter and Possession Certificate and original of Sale Deed dated 28.07.1981 registered as document No.2810/1981-82 of Book I, registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore Urban, Bangalore. Property Measuring : 60x40 feet.

In this regard I had lodged a police complaint bearing Lost report No. 2071746/2026, Date:19/02/2026.

If found, please inform me. Mobile: +91 94480 78391 or to the nearest Police Station.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road Bengaluru-560001
Ph:080-25310066, E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 26.03.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM), for recovery of Rs.1,20,66,913.09 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakhs Sixty Six Thousands Nine Hundred Thirteen and Paisa Nine Only) as on 04.03.2026** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) SDDP Enterprises,** No.4, K No 149 1, R S Palya, Bangalore-560033. **(2) Lakshmipathy V,** 253, 8th Cross,St Anns School Road, Bhovi Colony, Near Doddamma Temple, Rama Murthy Nagar, Bengaluru- 560016.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **25.03.2026 - 5.00 pm.**

(₹.In Lakhs)

Lot	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value	Inspection date & time
1	All that part and parcel of residential property bearing Site No.70, Khatha No.166, House List No.193 situated at ITI notified area, Kowdanahalli Village, K R Pura, Hobli Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 33 feet and North to South 45 feet in all measuring 1485 Sq.ft and now the property comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP bearing municipal No.70, HL No.166 BBMP Ward No.26 Bangalore and the property stands in the name of Mr. V. Lakshmipathy S/o Late Sri Venkatappa. bounded on the: East by: Site belongs to Smt.Kamalamma, West by: Road, North by: Govt. Property, South by: Site No.69. **Google co-ordinate: 13.0133N, 77.6786E**	₹. 93.90 Lakh	₹. 9.39 Lakh	₹. 1.00 Lakh	18.03.2026 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.9483544116 and 8598009010 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 05.03.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

QuoteExpress

PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES

ROBERT H SCHULLER

₹21,000 CR Foreign investors pulled out from Indian equities over the last four trading sessions amid deteriorating global risk sentiment triggered by the West Asia crisis.

The journey of women financial participation

Data shows women's access to finance improved over decades; participation in wealth creation remains limited

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

EVERY year on International Women's Day, the conversation returns to the same question — how far have Indian women progressed in shaping their own financial future? The data shows improvement in women's access to finance over the past three decades, but participation in wealth creation still remains limited.

Many social and financial indicators for women have improved since 1991— education levels have risen, fertility rates have fallen and access to banking services has expanded. Yet the gains in financial participation and wealth creation remain uneven.

One area that has seen visible progress is banking access. Today, about 89% of women in India have bank accounts, largely due to financial inclusion initiatives over the past two decades. Access to credit has also expanded rapidly. As per the data from credit bureau CRIF High Mark, the number of women borrowers grew at 14.2% between December 2020 and December 2025 as against 8.2% growth among men.

Women are emerging as a major segment in business lending. By December 2025, 50.4% of new business loan volumes were taken by women, making them the largest borrower segment in that category. Women borrowers also have strong representation in several retail loan categories. They account for 43.5% of gold loans, 36.7% of education loans, and 32.2% of home loans.

The numbers reveal a clear gap between borrowing and wealth creation. While women account for 50.4% of new business loan volumes, their share

in the total value of loans sanctioned is only about 28%, indicating that average ticket sizes remain smaller.

The gap becomes even sharper when it comes to investments. Only 8.6% of women invest in mutual funds or equities as against 22.3% of men. Similarly, only 14.2% of women hold pension or provident fund accounts, against 32.8% among men. As far as insurance is concerned, women hold 34% of the life insurance policies while 29% health insurance policies are in women's name. These figures suggest that while women increasingly access credit and banking services, participation in long-term financial planning and asset creation remains low.

Financial inclusion has, therefore, progressed faster than financial agency. Access to accounts, loans and credit products has expanded, but this has not fully translated into sustained participation in investments and wealth building. This gap represents a missed economic opportunity. A study by EY India for the fintech platform Lxme estimates that greater participation by women in long-term investing could unlock a ₹40-trillion GDP opportunity for the economy.

The real question, therefore, is not whether women have access to finance—they increasingly do. The challenge lies in converting that access into deeper engagement with financial markets, investments and long-term wealth creation.

India's financial system has made meaningful progress in bringing women into the formal fold. The next stage is ensuring that participation goes beyond accounts and loans to building assets and financial security. That shift will determine whether women's role in India's financial landscape remains limited—or becomes transformative.

IN CONVERSATION

SAJIT VIJAYAKUMAR
Chief executive officer, Infosys Finacle

'AI agents will make traditional core banking, payment systems dated'

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) agents represent the next inflexion point in banking automation, shifting paradigm from rule-based orchestration to cognition-driven execution. In an interaction with TNIE's **Padmini Dhruvaraj**, Infosys Finacle CEO **Sajit Vijayakumar** tells AI agents will make traditional core banking and batch-based payment systems obsolete, forcing banks to overhaul technology stacks for real-time and autonomous operations. Edited excerpts:

AI agents are collapsing timelines for complex banking and IT works. How exposed is core banking and payments software model to this shift? What is Finacle doing?
Powered by advances in language models (LLMs) and GPT-class reasoning systems, AI agents can interpret intent, synthesise context across fragmented data landscapes, and coordinate multi-step financial workflows. Unlike earlier automation layers that optimised discrete tasks, AI agents compress decision cycles across key business processes and functional workflows. The result is a structural collapse in timelines for complex banking processes, enabling near-real-time responsiveness in domains historically constrained by manual review, siloed systems, and sequential processing logic.

Finacle AI's offerings include both predictive and generative AI assistants that support a host of use cases across lines of business and user journeys. Finacle has built AI assistants to augment key SDLC processes and introduced agentic AI capabilities.

Where does Finacle create value that banks can't replicate using in-house AI or third-party agentic platforms?
Finacle's defensible value in the era of AI stems less from standalone algorithms and more from the institutional depth of its enterprise data and domain architecture. Sustainable AI advantage in banking is a data problem requiring governed, high-fidelity, and semantically consistent information at scale. Finacle addresses this via an enterprise-grade data platform that combines industrialised data engineering pipelines, governed lakehouse constructs, and banking-aligned canonical models.

Credit originated on payment flows, including credit-on-UPI, merchant or consumer lending are emerging as most scalable lever. API monetisation and banking-as-a-service models are also generating recurring ecosystem income

Digital payments are critical infra but hard to monetise. What revenue models are working for banks today?
Despite banks funding security, scale and stability of the country's payment system, real economic value is shifting toward ecosystem surrounding payment rather than the payment event itself. Credit originated on payment flows, including credit-on-UPI and embedded merchant or consumer lending, are emerging as the most scalable lever. API monetisation and banking-as-a-service models are also generating recurring ecosystem income as banks power partner distribution. Realising this transition requires a modern, resilient payment architecture. Cloud-native ISO 20022-based payment hubs like Finacle's can enable banks to participate across multiple schemes at scale, generate transactional intelligence and facilitate financial services without compromising compliance.

Is AI in banking delivering measurable profit uplift, or is it still largely a cost and compliance investment?
Scaled deployments in personalisation, intelligent credit, fraud signal detection, and sales augmentation are beginning to produce quantifiable shifts in efficiency ratios, loss containment, and revenue conversion. These outcomes signal an early but credible transition from productivity tooling to earnings leverage.

Five years from now, which part of today's banking technology stack do you believe will become irrelevant?
The components of the banking technology stack at the highest risk of irrelevance are static channel applications, coupled middleware and batch-oriented integration patterns designed for predictability rather than adaptability that are becoming constraints in an era defined by real-time expectations, ecosystem connectivity, and AI-driven decisioning.

MONEY-WISE

HACKS FOR WOMEN'S FINANCIAL FREEDOM

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

FINANCIAL literacy is not just a skill—it is a superpower for women. In a world where systemic gaps persist, understanding money empowers you to build security, independence and legacy.

Women face unique realities: gender pay gap means earning less than a man, career interruptions for caregiving reduce earning years and longer average lifespans (often 5–7 years more) demand larger retirement nests. Higher healthcare costs in later life and the possibility of outliving a spouse add urgency. Yet studies show many women feel less confident investing and wish they had started sooner.

You can close these gaps with knowledge and action:

Start with basics: know your numbers. Track every rupee coming in and going out. Create a budget using 50/30/20 rule—50% on needs (rent, food, utilities), 30% on wants, 20% on savings and debt repayment. Calculate your net worth annually. This clarity prevents leaks and reveals opportunities. Build an emergency fund covering 3–6 months of expenses. Women often hold smaller emergency cushions; closing this gap protects against job loss or medical surprises.Next master debt. Good debt (student loans) builds wealth; bad debt (high-interest credit cards) erodes it. Protect your credit score—it affects loans, insurance, and even job offers. Check your report yearly and dispute errors. Women sometimes hesitate to negotiate salaries or credit terms; practice asking for what you deserve. A single successful raise compounds over decades.Investing is where many women hesitate, but it is non-negotiable. Compound interest is your best friend—starting at 25 versus 35 can mean hundreds of thousands more by retirement. Diversify across shares, bonds, mutual funds, or index funds.

Women often choose safer portfolios, yet data shows they frequently outperform men when they do invest because of disciplined, long-term approaches. Contribute to retirement accounts religiously. Aim to save at least 25% of income, including provident fund equivalent plans. If you take maternity or caregiving leave, resume contributions immediately and consider catch-up options after 50. Life, health, disability, policies safeguard your family and future self. Review beneficiaries yearly—especially after marriage, divorce, or childbirth. Many married women discover late that they know little about joint accounts or their partner's pensions. Insist on transparency: understand household finances together. Draft a will, durable power of attorney, and healthcare directive. Consider a revocable living trust if you have children or significant assets. For single women or single mothers, these documents ensure your wishes prevail.

Finally, invest in yourself. Negotiate raises, pursue certifications, and side hustles to close income gaps. Educate yourself continuously—podcasts, books, or free resources like Investopedia. Join investing communities to build confidence. Financial freedom is not about perfection; it is about consistent progress.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY WOMEN INVESTORS MUST TAKE CHARGE

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE war situation in the Middle East is worrying investors everywhere. The stress is felt across all classes and categories of investors. The surge in volatility across financial and commodity markets will spare nobody. Your ability to ride the storm requires you to stay aware of the situation, even if you are lucky enough to be a distant observer.

It is also that time of year when businesses tend to remember they need to target half the country's population. International Women's Day messages on social media will remind you that women in your life matter. In India, women deserve all the celebration. The predominant patriarchal society in the country ensures that women's participation in the formal workforce remains abysmally low in comparison to other large economies. It is a no-brainer that a small jump in the number of women in the workplace would boost the nation's growth. There is a need for the entire government machinery to focus on the well-being of this half of the population.

Having said that, the data on women seeking greater control over their finances is significant. The latest monthly data from the National Stock Exchange shows a clear increase in women's participation in the stock market. About 25% of the total 12.7 crore investors are women. A further deep dive is given by a survey conducted by the mutual fund house DSP Mutual Fund. They asked over 5,000 people across 13 cities in India about how they invest, and found that about 56% of women take independent decisions. That is up from 44% three years ago. The survey also highlights many other qualitative aspects of how women invest. Although 84% feel confident about investing on their own, only a third have a plan or goal. The survey also finds that more women associate money with freedom. About 41% of them are prioritising travel over buying a home, as holiday spending rises.

Professional help

Your marital status or age does not matter. You need a professional advisor to work with you at all times. If you are single and consider money as freedom, there is all the more reason for you to pay yourself first before spending. Making an appropriate asset allocation towards long-term and short-term goals will help you manage your money well. You must get help from a certified financial advisor who can support your financial goals dispassionately. Freedom is also an emotion. Investing requires you to keep your emotions in check and allocate your hard-earned savings appropriately. It is not a race. Financial planning can help you achieve your financial goals without pinching yourself every day. All your spending now and later can be planned.

If you are married, you can complement your spouse in pursuing mutual goals. However, your investment strategy must be based on your ability to withstand risk. If you are willing to take more risks but your spouse is not, it is a good idea to discuss that upfront before determining asset allocation. On a simple piece of paper, you can make your lists. Carve out mutual goals, such as a child's education, and discuss your ability to invest upfront. If both of you work, you may want to determine allocation towards retirement planning independently.

It's no different

Investing for women need not be different from that of men. It is not a battle of the sexes. You will analyse the same companies, bond markets or commodities. Your ability to take risks will determine the way you invest across asset classes. That is the same for men. Your future income determines your ability to take those risks. The key here is the confidence you have in your abilities to sustain that income.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

RBI gives Fino nod to appoint Merchant as interim CEO

ENS ECNOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Reserve Bank has approved appointment of Ketan Merchant *(pic)* as interim CEO of Fino Payments Bank following the arrest of its MD and CEO Rishi Gupta in a GST probe.

In a regulatory filing, the bank said the RBI, through a letter dated March 6, 2026, approved Merchant's appointment for a period of three months with effect from February 27 or until Gupta resumes office after a reassessment of his "fit and proper" status by the nomination and remuneration committee (NRC) and the board, and a final view by the central bank, whichever is earlier.

Gupta was arrested by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) last week under

provisions of CGST and SGST Acts related to alleged GST violations. The probe pertains to programme managers associated with multiple banks and involves allegations of use of shell firms and payment aggregators to route illicit funds generated via online money gaming.Fino Payments Bankmaintained that it is compliant with GST regulations and that the probe does not relate to its own tax compliance. "The probe is in relation to programme managers associated with multiple banks and not on the GST compliance of the bank itself," the lender said in the filing, adding that neither the bank nor Gupta had any role in actions of those programme managers.

The arrest triggered volatility in the bank's shares, which fell as much as 14% in morning trade before recovering most of the losses to close about 2% lower at ₹188.50. The bank also denied any involvement in or promotion of betting activities, saying its merchant onboarding process complies with regulatory norms.

Delhi HC to hear suit against SAP next week

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Delhi High Court will hear Nayara Energy's lawsuit against German software company SAP's India unit suspending software services critical to its operations this week.

Nayara had approached the HC in September last year after SAP India suspended services citing European Union sanctions. The court, which had denied urgent relief, is scheduled to hear the petition on March 16, people aware of the matter said. The EU had last year imposed sanctions on Nayara for its ties to Russia and for refining Russian oil. Nayara Energy argued before the court that its agreement is with SAP India, an Indian entity, and therefore, not subject to the EU sanctions.

PhonePe to diversify revenue sources for better profitability, cash generation

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

IPO-bound PhonePe, the Walmart-owned digital payments platform that controls nearly half of the UPI payment volumes, has been focusing on diversifying its revenue streams to improve profitability and cash generation, with the ₹7,114.85 crore topline in FY25.

Revenue from key payment services including merchant payments business was ₹62,99.7 crore or about 86% and the remaining came from other sources like co-lending, insurance and mutual fund distribution, etc. It was planning to hit the street with the largest fintech public issue in April but given market condition after the West Asia war, it has to be seen if it will go ahead with the $1.5 billion issue as planned.

The offering is primarily an offer for sale (OFS) by Walmart Inc and Tiger Global and other shareholders at a likely valuation of nearly $15 billion.

Its FY25 revenue grew over 40% from ₹5,064 crore in FY24 to ₹7,114.9 crore in FY25, helping it narrow net losses at ₹1,727.4 crore as its expenses were contained at ₹9,394 crore, with employee benefits accounting for ₹4,096.7 crore. This was ₹2,914.3 crore in FY23, representing a CAGR of 56.25% between FY23 and FY25.

Its H1FY26, revenue rose to ₹4,174.6 crore from ₹3,918.5 crore a year ago, of which contribution from merchant payments business remained stable at 30.78% and revenue from co-lending, insurance and mutual fund distribution was at 11.55%, down a tad from the full year period of FY25 when it was about 14%.

Of late, as part of widening its revenue streams, PhonePe has been steadily scaling up its co-lending, insurance and mutual fund distribution business, apart from stock broking. Co-lending and insurance distribution services revenue has grown at a compounded annual rate of 345.84% from ₹28 crore in FY23 to ₹557.6 crore in FY25.

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HIT-WAVE

CHAMPIONS: INDIA

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13

PICS: DEBADATTA MALLICK

UTTERLY, BATTERLY DELICIOUS

Samson, Bumrah help India rout NZ by 96 runs to make history, defend T20 WC title

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Ahmedabad

THE excelsis of India's batting innings came off the 119th legal delivery they faced. It was a dot ball. Shivam Dube turned down a single. At the other end, Tilak Varma was halfway down the pitch before he was disdainfully sent back by his partner.

The boffins in the team will have agreed with Dube's decision to face the final ball. He averages more against pace at the death when compared to Varma. He also has more power. Off the final ball of the innings, Dube swatted a short Jimmy Neesham delivery between mid-off and cover. To turn down a single when playing with a bowler is one thing. To do it when your partner is a specialist batter is borderline chutzpah. But the one thing this team has done since winning the last World Cup is batting chutzpah. It even made the host broadcaster run a '300 Alert' throughout the group stages of this tournament.

300 wasn't breached but it's no surprise that their batting delivered them this World Cup. In 2024, it was their bowlers. This time, there can be do doubt. After a shock loss to South Africa in the Super 8s, they were faced with two finals before the actual semifinals. Since then, they have made 256, chased down 198 and made 253. On Sunday, 255 was a new benchmark for a score in the knockout of this tournament.

The pitch was a highway and the Kiwi bowlers were off their radar the entire night. They fed to Abhishek Sharma's strength as they allowed him access to the off-side and repeatedly bowled slot balls. They were either a touch too short or a touch too full. But only a batting team with full conviction in its methodology would have been able to make full use of both factors — conditions of the surface and some bowling largesse. 19 fours and 18 sixes tell its own story. But there's no point in talking about this match without the exhaustive plans put in place since the day they won the title in the West Indies. The old guard was ushered out as a new brand of hedonistic, attacking cricket was going to be promoted. New ethos were nailed to the mast. The players within the system were either encouraged to develop this or players playing like this were parachuted into the team. It's also kind of why Shubman Gill was dropped so close to the World Cup. It also kind of partly explains why they flip-flopped over Sanju Samson. He has a high ceiling but his floor was a worry. His batting had partly carried this team to the doorstep of victory. Very much a momentum player, he reserved some of his best for last. After Abhishek Sharma's rapid start had messed with the New Zealand bowlers, Samson and Ishan Kishan thrilled the fans who had come from all over the world to watch them.

> **I think it'll take a little bit of time (to sink in), but definitely very happy with what has happened today. It has been a long journey.–**
>
> Suryakumar Yadav, India captain

It didn't matter what the Kiwis did because whatever they did, the only constant was the ball disappearing. One boundary, where Samson steered a near-perfect fifth stump yorker past a diving short third man, was one of the shots of the final. When he wasn't caressing the ball, he was bludgeoning it over long on or pulling it over mid-wicket. A hat-trick of sixes off Rachin Ravindra forced even members of the press box to clap.

That other thing about batting in this format. None of these batters care too much about milestones. Samson, on 89, could have stuck around long enough for a ton. He teed off again and holed out in the deep.

In the end, a total of 255 was more than enough and the bowlers knew they had lots of runs to play with, especially in a final when scoreboard pressure is a very real thing.

In the winter of 2023, at the same venue, Indian cricket seemingly couldn't win a knockout game of this magnitude. Since that day, they haven't lost a knockout game. Played six, won six. Played three ICC white-ball events. Won three ICC white-ball events. This is how you begin to create a dynasty. Catch them if you can. At this rate, in this format, nobody may be able to. **Brief scores:** India 255/5 in 20 ovs (Samson 89, Kishan 54, Abhishek 52) **bt** NZ 159 in 19 ovs (Seifert 52; Bumrah 4/15, Axar 3/27).

WHERE THE FINAL WAS WON

Power-packed start

Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma added 98 off just 43 balls laying a strong foundation for the team to go past 250. It was their best opening stand of the tournament. NZ never recovered from the assault

Dube's onslaught

From 203/1 after 15 overs, India managed just 28 runs in the next four overs losing four wickets. Dube then tore apart Jimmy Neesham by hitting 24 runs in the last over of the innings.

Axar's homecoming

In his first WC match at his home ground, Axar gave India the first breakthrough claiming danger man Finn Allen's wicket. He went on to claim two more wickets to finish with 3/27

14

Jasprit Bumrah finishes as joint-leading wicket-taker — 14 wkts at 12.42 AVG & 6.21 ECO. He was the player of the final (4/15) against NZ.

275

Samson hit 275 runs in last 3 ties. With 321 runs, he was the Player of the WC.

HALL OF FAME

THEY CAME INTO THE T20 WORLD CUP AS THE TEAM TO BEAT BUT THE CAMPAIGN WAS ANYTHING BUT THAT. SURYAKUMAR YADAV AND HIS MEN PERSISTED. COME THE BIG DAY, INDIA BECAME THE FIRST MEN'S TEAM TO DEFEND THE CROWN AND WIN T20 WC AT HOME...

SURYAKUMAR YADAV
His 84* saved India against the USA. He might not have done much with the bat since but led the team well to the title

JASPRIT BUMRAH
Played a huge role in India's title win. Was effective in all phases throughout the tournament. He showed why he is the best in world

ABHISHEK SHARMA
Entered the tournament in form but struggled through the WC. Come the final, he stepped up big time vs NZ

SANJU SAMSON
Was out of form but made a comeback for ages before playing three match-changing knocks in must-win ties

ISHAN KISHAN
His innings against Pak made every one sit up and take notice of him. He couldn't replicate it since but made crucial cameos

SHIVAM DUBE
As a spin-bashing middle-order, he was as good as it gets. He might not have excelled with the ball but surely left his mark

TILAK VARMA
Started as a No 3 but his role changed. With left-right combination in play, he was pushed down but it only helped him

MOHAMMED SIRAJ
Came in as an injury replacement for Harshit Rana vs USA & immediately made an impact. Since then, he did not feature

RINKU SINGH
Midway, he lost his father, came back and joined the team without missing a game. He has been India's super-sub on field

VARUN CHAKARAVARTHY
Joint-leading wicket-taker (13) going into the final. It is a full circle moment for him as he was dropped after 2021 T20 WC

HARDIK PANDYA
If 2024 triumph was redemption, this victory reiterates his dominance. Quietly did the job in all three fronts.

AXAR PATEL
Missed ODI WC, kept India alive in 2024 final and now has WC title at his home ground with his son watching him live 1st time

ARSHDEEP SINGH
Second highest wicket-taker for India at T20 WCs after Bumrah despite playing one less WC. He did the dirty job with ball

KULDEEP YADAV
In any other team, he would have played every game. The variety of India's attack meant he played only one

WASHINGTON SUNDAR
Joined the team late due to injury, played a couple of games but did not make the XI after due to team combinations

GAUTAM GAMBHIR
May draw polarising opinions but Gambhir has now coached India to two ICC titles — Champions Trophy and T20 WC

With little luck, Abhishek shines when it matters

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Ahmedabad

LUCK. It seemed to have deserted Abhishek Sharma before the biggest tournament of his fledgling career. Stomach infections can be nasty pieces of work. It's generally not life threatening but it can leave a short-term impact. You can lose a few kilos, your training routine is affected and it can take time to rediscover that rhythm.

He was on drips and had to be hospitalised. That's a loss of a few training sessions. In the middle of all this, he was constantly travelling. Mumbai to New Delhi to Colombo to Ahmedabad. All those miles with a bug in the system did some damage. Add to that the string of low scores and the world's No. 1 batter wasn't feeling it in terms of confidence and belief. Issues rose when facing off-spin, shots were half-hearted and it gnawed at him. This was supposed to be the 25-year-old's grand moment. His stage. Luck.

It was half-past seven in front of over a lakh people at the new Motera on Sunday. The stage? The T20 World Cup final against New Zealand. After not having any luck for the last month, Sharma has had more luck in 30 minutes than people have had in their lifetimes.

In the process, the beleaguered southpaw belatedly rubber-stamped his arrival. Better late than never. On the biggest night of his life so far, he showed why the team management had persisted with him right through. That privilege wasn't given to their Test and ODI skipper, Shubman Gill, the next poster boy of Indian cricket. It wasn't given to Sanju Samson, the man who was dropped on the eve of the tournament. But Sharma's body of work was such that he had already made himself undroppable.

It's why the scores of 0, 0, 0, 15, 55, 10 and 9 didn't matter. And, on Sunday night, he made one tiny adjustment and it gave him all the luck in the world. Give himself time. It's often said that in T20 cricket, there's no time. But time is relative. In a Test, time is one session. 120 minutes. In this format, time can be three balls. Two minutes. It's the time he gave himself.

Off-spin, his kryptonite, was being fed to him by Glenn Phillips in the match's second over. Off his first two deliveries, he offered a straight bat. No exaggerated movements, nothing fancy, nothing in the air. It was against character but it was also a sign of a lesson learnt.

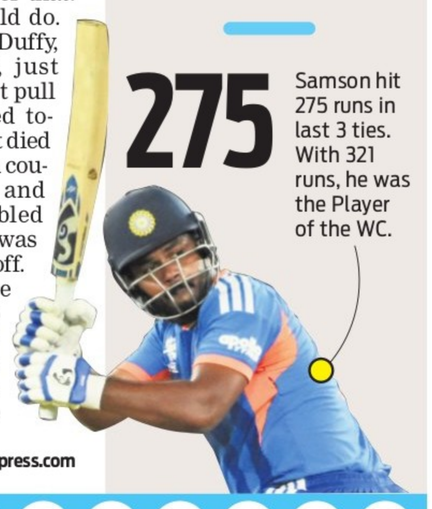
In elite sport, you need to sometimes park your ego and here was Sharma parking his.

Off the third ball, it was a drive along the ground to long-off for a single. Deep breathes. Jacob Duffy, picked in place of Cole McConchie on a pitch offering true bounce and next to no spin, was tasked with bowling the third over of the powerplay. The hosts were on 12 for none. It was time to hit.

One thing the Punjab batter loves doing is back himself to clear the in-field against pacers. Blessed with timing and hand-eye coordination, he has a very clean bat-swing. Sometimes, you don't even need all of that. Just one of those would do. His first boundary off Duffy, hit through the line, just cleared mid-on. His first pull of the night was skied towards deep square leg. It died on a diving Phillips for a couple. One more metre and Phillips will have gobbled that. In between, there was a lofted drive over mid-off.

He likes nothing more than jumping outside to pace. He did that to Lockie Ferguson in the next over and saw an edge fly over the keeper.

Full story: newindianexpress.com



Ind in ovs 255/5 — 7 5 15 24 21 20 6 12 5 12 10 24 10 20 12 1 7 9 11 24

EXPRESS READ

Wrexham force extra time but lose to Chelsea

WREXHAM (WALES): Against the world champion, Wrexham came agonisingly close to another spectacular plot twist before losing 2-4. Lewis Brunt was a matter of inches offside when he headed in what looked like an equalizing goal in a FA Cup clash against Chelsea.

SC Delhi fight back to hold Mumbai City

MUMBAI: A spirited second-half comeback saw Sporting Club Delhi recover from a two-goal deficit to earn a 2-2 draw against Mumbai City FC in Indian Super League 2025-26 on Sunday. The Islanders remain provisionally fourth in the standings with eight points.

WC qualifer: India thrash Uruguay 4-0

HYDERABAD: The Indian women's hockey team opened its FIH World Cup Qualifiers 2026 campaign with a dominant 4-0 win over Uruguay on Sunday. Sunelita Toppo (21'), Ishika (40'), Lalremsiami (49') and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (58') scored.

Fairytale farewell for Oz captain Healy

PERTH: Australia translated their overwhelming dominance over the last three days into a lop-sided 10-wicket win over India in the one-off women's day-night Test here on Sunday. Australia earlier did the ground work for their victory, bowling out India for 149 in their second innings, and then scaled down a nominal target of 25 without any ado. It was a fitting farewell for skipper Alyssa Healy who played her last match for Australia across formats. India will tour South Africa next. **Brief scores**: India 198 and 149 all out in 48.2 ovs (Pratika 63; Hamilton 3/32, Gardner 2/8) **lost to** Australia 323 and 28/0 in 4.3 ovs (Voll 16 n.o).

Lakshya's epic run ends with runner-up finish

Laksya Sen and Lin Chun-yi at the podium after the final | AP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

LAKSHYA Sen had navigated past some world-class rivals and soldiered on despite cramps in the semifinal stage during his epic run to the All England Open final at Birmingham.

One more hit and he would have attained legendary status. But come Sunday, the day of the final, he cut a dejected figure as he fell just short of his end goal. Instead, it was Lin Chun-yi, a familiar rival, who entered the history books by becoming the first shuttler from Chinese Taipei to pocket the prestigious crown. After a fascinating battle that lasted just under an hour, Lin won 21-15, 22-20. For Lakshya, this is the second time that he has ended up as a runner-up in the BWF Super 1000 event. Lakshya is somebody who is at his best when he is attacking, somebody who thrives when there's some sort of chaos inside the court. That is the tactic that he had regularly employed to rattle his previous-round opponents. But Lin was as calm as they come. The World No 11, who had beaten Lakshya en route India Open Super 750 title, was assertive from the get go and was controlling the tempo of the game at the initial stages of the final. He was constantly attacking Lakshya's backhand and employing some drop shots to set up some winners. Lakshya was also guilty of making some unforced errors.

Lin had a slender lead, but the game was far from over. Lakshya, with some fine returns, managed to close the gap. But Lin didn't hit the panic button and continued to earn a point or two to stay ahead heading into the first 20-second break. Once the play resumed, Lakshya tried to kill a rally soon but faltered.

> *The captain and coach had faith in me even I was doubting myself. I had never experienced this before. I love this team because the way they backed me. It wasn't easy for me. But the the team and management showed faith in me.*
>
> Abhishek Sharma, India batter

> *I have been in constant touch with Sachin Tendulkar sir. I think when I was outside, sitting outside in Australia, I was not playing a game. So, I thought about, okay, what is the mindset required now? So, I reached out to sir and I had huge, huge conversations with him.*
>
> Sanju Samson, Player of the tournament

> *It feels extremely special because I've played one final at my home venue and you know, couldn't win that one, but this one feels really special.*
>
> Jasprit Bumrah, Player of the final

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UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

RRB PARAMEDICAL CBT	UP POLICE SI	TNPSC GROUP II / IIA MAINS
Dates: March 11 to 13	Date: March 14 to 15	Date: March 15

14

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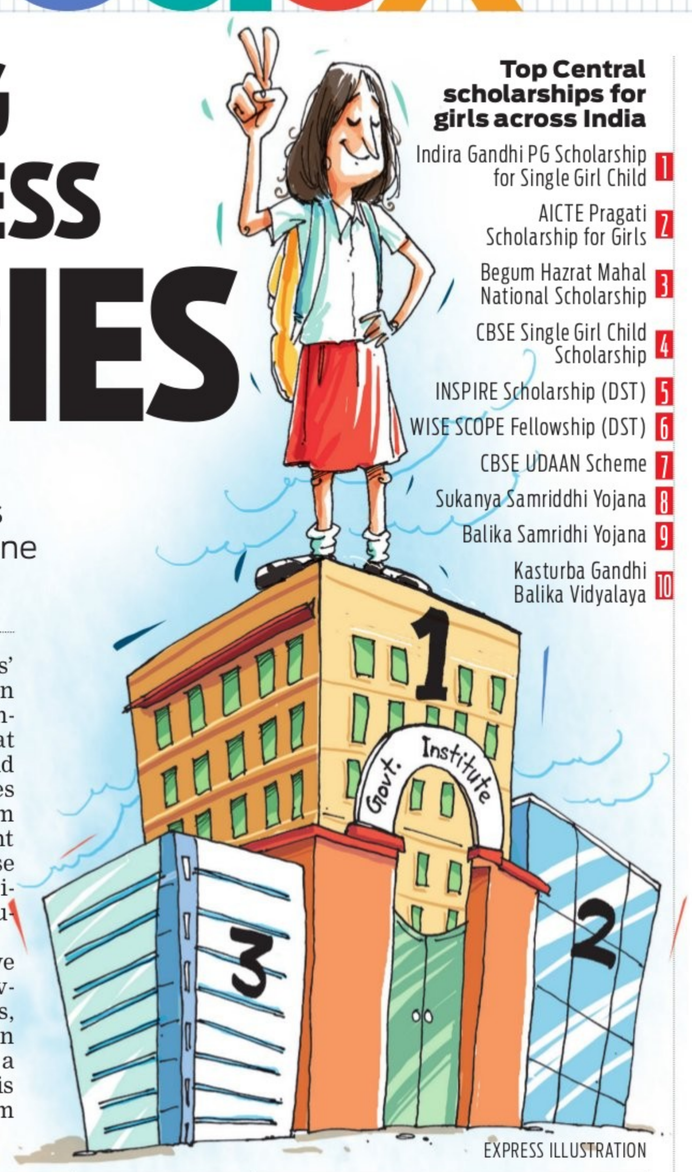
SCRIPTING HER SUCCESS STORIES

Key Central schemes offer financial aid and incentives across the education pipeline



Top Central scholarships for girls across India

1. Indira Gandhi PG Scholarship for Single Girl Child
2. AICTE Pragati Scholarship for Girls
3. Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship
4. CBSE Single Girl Child Scholarship
5. INSPIRE Scholarship (DST)
6. WISE SCOPE Fellowship (DST)
7. CBSE UDAAN Scheme
8. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana
9. Balika Samridhi Yojana
10. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

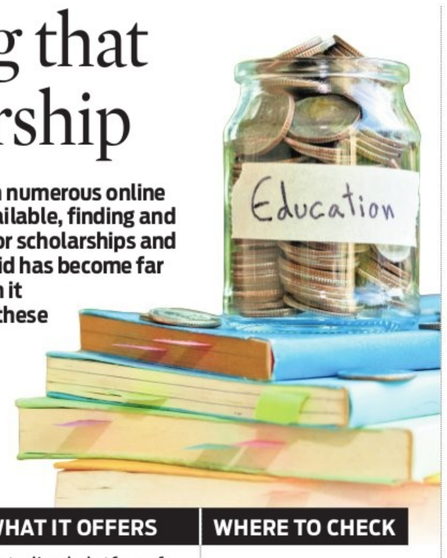
KARTHIKEYA S

INDIA'S efforts to improve girls' access to education have been supported by a range of Central government schemes that offer financial incentives and scholarships at different stages of the academic journey. From encouraging school enrolment to supporting postgraduate studies, these initiatives aim to reduce financial barriers that may prevent girls from continuing their education.

Over the years, these programmes have focused on three key objectives: improving enrolment, reducing dropout rates, and supporting women's participation in higher education. Together, they form a "scholarship ladder", where support is available across a girl's education, from school to postgraduate study.

SCHEME	LEVEL	YEAR LAUNCHED	PURPOSE
UGC PG Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child	Postgraduate	2006	**₹36,200 per year** for two years of postgraduate study
AICTE Pragati Scholarship	Undergraduate	2014	**Up to ₹50,000 per year** for girls pursuing technical degrees
National Incentive for Girls' Secondary Education (NIGSE)	Secondary school	2008	**₹3,000** deposited for eligible girls to encourage continuation after Class 8
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao	Primary school	2015	Nationwide campaign promoting the value of the girl child & girls' education

Getting that scholarship



TODAY, with numerous online portals available, finding and applying for scholarships and financial aid has become far easier than it once was. Checking these portals can help students discover additional financial aid opportunities they may be eligible for.

PLATFORM	WHAT IT OFFERS	WHERE TO CHECK
National Scholarship Portal (NSP)	A centralised platform for multiple scholarships offered by various ministries	www.scholarships.gov.in
myScheme	A national platform that provides a one-stop search and discovery of government scholarships and schemes	www.myscheme.gov.in
UGC scholarships	Offers national scholarship for postgraduate studies	www.ugc.gov.in/Scholarships/stu_Scholarship6
CBSE scholarships	Platform to apply for Merit Scholarship Scheme for Single Girl Child (SGC) and others	www.cbse.gov.in/cbsenew/scholar.html
State scholarships	Scholarships offered by state governments for local students	State education department websites
University scholarships	Merit or need-based financial aid	Official university portals

TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

- Check portals regularly for opening and closing dates
- Keep scanned copies of all documents ready
- Make sure your Aadhaar and bank details match exactly
- Submit early to avoid last-minute portal issues
- Track your application status regularly

States of support

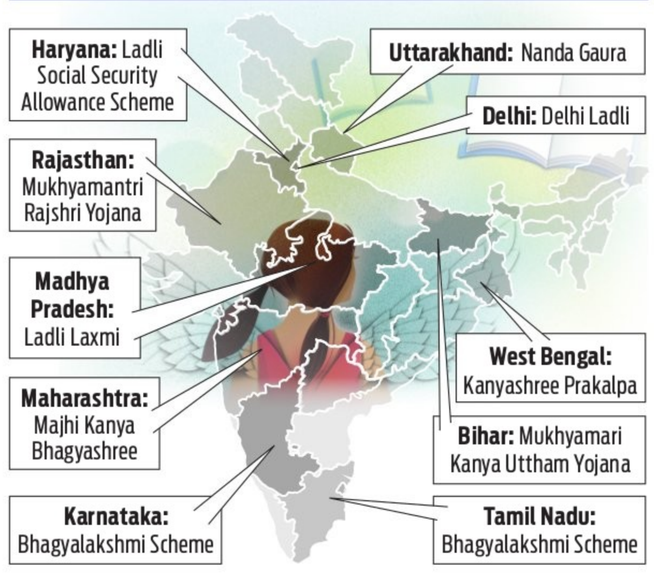
YECHURI SASHIKANTH

WHILE national schemes aim to improve girls' education, many state governments have also introduced initiatives to support their educational journeys. These state-sponsored programmes provide financial assistance to encourage girls' school enrolment, completion of schooling, and progression to higher education. Schemes such as West Bengal's Kanyashree Prakalpa, Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Lakshmi Yojana, Uttarakhand's Nanda Gaura Yojana, and the Delhi Ladli Scheme are examples of how states are supporting girls' education through targeted financial aid.

- **Kanyashree Prakalpa:** The scheme offers an annual scholarship of Rs 500 besides a one-time grant of Rs 25,000.
- **Ladli Lakshmi Yojana:** This state-sponsored scheme aims to improve the educational level and health status of girls by providing financial assistance/ allowance.
- **Delhi Ladli Scheme:** Launched in 2008, promotes girl students to complete schooling by providing financial assistance at different stages
- **Nanda Gaura Yojana:** Under this scheme, financial assistance will be provided in two installments to two girl children of an eligible family. Each girl child will be provided ₹11,000 at the time of birth and ₹51,000 when the girl passes 12th standard.

Although the scope of these schemes varies from state to state, the common objective is to reduce the dropout rate of girls and encourage them to continue their education beyond secondary school.

STATES AND SCHEMES


Haryana: Ladli Social Security Allowance Scheme
Uttarakhand: Nanda Gaura
Delhi: Delhi Ladli
Rajasthan: Mukhyamantri Rajshri Yojana
Madhya Pradesh: Ladli Laxmi
West Bengal: Kanyashree Prakalpa
Maharashtra: Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree
Bihar: Mukhyamari Kanya Utthan Yojana
Karnataka: Bhagyalakshmi Scheme
Tamil Nadu: Bhagyalakshmi Scheme

The long road to closing the G A P

Numbers show steady progress in some fields, even as gaps remain in others

WOMEN'S presence in higher education has been rising steadily across India. The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22 recorded nearly 4.33 crore students in higher education, including 2.07 crore women, up from 2.01 crore the previous year. That growth is now beginning to register in several specialised and professional fields as well.

In aviation, for instance, women received 294 of the 1,622 Commercial Pilot Licences issued in 2023, an 18% share. This was 22% more than the number issued in 2022. Cybersecurity is another area showing expansion. The Data Security Council of India projects women's participation in India's cybersecurity workforce rising from 10.8% in 2022 to 14.9% by 2027. Artificial intelligence presents a more complex picture. Global research shows that women account for less than a third of AI professionals and about 18% of AI researchers presenting at major conferences.

While engineering and technical education still reflect a wider gap — with AISHE data placing women's share at 29.1% compared with 70.9% for men — the broader rise in female enrolment means more women are now entering training pipelines that lead into technical and professional sectors. That is where institutions such as Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW) in Delhi and Banasthali Vidyapith in Rajasthan become important.

By training women in engineering, science, and allied disciplines, they help translate higher enrolment into stronger representation in careers where men still far outnumber women. The figures make one thing abundantly clear: access alone is not the finish line. What matters now is whether opportunity, retention, mentorship, and advancement begin to keep pace across sectors.

QUICK STATS!

2.07 crore

HIGHER EDUCATION: Female enrolment reached 2.07 crore in 2021-22, within a total enrolment of nearly 4.33 crore

AI: Women remain underrepresented globally, making up less than a third of AI professionals and about 18% of AI researchers at top conferences

18%

AVIATION: Women received 294 of 1,622 (18%) Commercial Pilot Licences in 2023

CYBER SECURITY: Women's participation is projected to rise from 10.8% in 2022 to 14.9% in 2027

Built For Women

Over the decades, dedicated institutions have helped widen educational access for women. Many of them were founded with a clear purpose: to give girls and women the confidence, networks, and academic grounding to step into fields that once remained closed to them.

WOMEN COLLEGES IN INDIA

1 Miranda House, Delhi

Established in 1948, Miranda House is among the most sought-after colleges in the University of Delhi system. Known for its strong programmes across the humanities, social sciences, and sciences, it has a student strength of more than 3,500, according to the college. Its standing is reflected in the 2025 NIRF rankings, where it placed second among colleges in India.

2 Stella Maris College for Women, Chennai

Founded on August 15, 1947, Stella Maris College for Women is a Catholic minority institution affiliated with the University of Madras. It became autonomous in 1987, a status that helped it build a distinct academic identity across arts and science streams. A major name in women's higher education in south India, it was ranked 41 in the 2025 NIRF college rankings.

3 Sophia College for Women, Mumbai

Founded in 1940 and affiliated with the University of Mumbai, Sophia College for Women is among the city's best-known women's colleges. Its legacy and autonomous status have helped it remain a strong choice for students seeking women-focused higher education.

4 SNDT Women's University, Maharashtra

Founded in 1916, SNDT (Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey) Women's University is recognised as India's first women's university and the first in South-East Asia. With campuses in Mumbai and Pune, it has expanded women's access to higher education over generations, making it a landmark institution in India's academic history.

5 Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women, Delhi

Established as a university in 2013 by the Delhi government, Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women focuses on professional education in engineering, technology, applied sciences, architecture, and allied fields. That focus makes it stand apart from women's institutions known more for arts and general science. It remains a clear women-focused pathway into STEM.

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS

1 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) network

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas are government-backed residential schools for girls under Samagra Shiksha, aimed at students from disadvantaged groups, including SC, ST, OBC, minority, and Below Poverty Line communities. They serve girls aged 10 to 18, covering Classes VI to XII. As of December 2025, there were 5,639 KGBVs across India.

2 Welham Girls' School, Dehradun

Founded in 1957, Welham Girls' School is one of India's best-known girls' boarding schools. It offers residential schooling from Grades VI to XII and follows both CISCE and Cambridge Assessment International Education pathways. Its reputation and fully residential model have made it a prominent name in girls' school education.

3 Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, Gwalior

Founded in 1956, Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya is a residential school for girls in Gwalior, focused on secondary and senior secondary education. With its legacy profile and Central India location, the school remains one of the established names in girls' boarding education.

4 Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer

Founded in August 1988, Mayo College Girls' School is a fully residential boarding school for girls in Ajmer and represents a more contemporary face of India's girls' residential education. The school teaches in English and offers both CISCE and Cambridge-linked academic pathways, with a strong campus-based boarding environment.

5 Birla Balika Vidyapeeth, Pilani

Founded in 1941, Birla Balika Vidyapeeth is an English-medium residential public school for girls in Pilani, affiliated with CBSE. Its long institutional history and fully residential model have given it a strong place in India's girls' boarding-school tradition. It remains one of the older and more recognisable names in the category.

WOMEN COLLEGES ABROAD

1 Wellesley College, Massachusetts

Wellesley remains one of the best-known women's colleges in the United States of America. Its admissions process emphasises holistic review, and about 45% of enrolling first-year students chose to apply without test scores last year.

2 Smith College, Northampton

Founded in 1871 and opened in 1875, Smith College is a historic women's college in Northampton, Massachusetts. It combines a liberal arts tradition with access to the Five College Consortium, allowing cross-registration across partner campuses. Smith also offers need-based financial aid to non-US citizens but it is competitive.

3 Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley

Founded in 1837 in South Hadley, Massachusetts, Mount Holyoke College is among the oldest women's colleges still centred on women-focused admissions and improved access to research, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) opportunities. The college follows a test-optional policy.

4 Barnard College, New York City

Founded in 1889, Barnard College is a women's college in New York City with a long-standing academic relationship with Columbia University. Students share academic and extracurricular resources with Columbia while studying within Barnard's own women-focused environment. For international applicants, Barnard meets full demonstrated need, though admissions are need-aware.

5 Scripps College, Claremont

Founded in 1926 in Claremont, California, Scripps College is part of the Claremont Colleges consortium. That wider academic ecosystem is one of its biggest draws. For international applicants, financial assistance is limited and awarded only at admission.

THREE JOURNEYS, ONE FORCE: HOW EDUCATION REWRITES FUTURES

NIKHIL ABHISHEK

NOT every educational journey begins with a grand plan. For Latha, education meant being the first to cross a line no girl in her family had crossed before. She grew up in rural India, where school was a 30-minute walk away and resources were limited. In her community, girls usually stopped studying after school. Latha did not. Encouraged by her parents and a mathematics teacher after Class X, she continued, despite financial strain and long travel to college. A sports scholarship later helped ease the burden. "Girls usually stopped studying after school. I'm the first girl in my family to attend college," she says. Now pursuing an MA in Public Policy, she hopes to work in sports marketing or event management.

For Unnati Jain, the path was shaped by curiosity. A final-year BTech student in Electronics and Communication Engineering, she says science interested her from childhood, with semiconductors eventually drawing her in through their complexity and design possibilities. In a class of around 60 students, 15 to 18 are girls, but Unnati says that has not translated into bias. As more women enter STEM spaces, she believes interest in such fields must be encouraged without pressure. "I think it should come naturally. It cannot be forced," she notes. She is now preparing to pursue a Master's in the same field.

Kaveri *(name changed)* carries a different story. Before she entered the civil services, education was less a ladder than a way of holding her ground. There were years when family pressure, expectations around marriage, and the sheer weight of circumstance could easily have closed in on her future. Instead, she kept studying and kept moving through setbacks. "Every exam I cleared gave me a little more space to choose my own life," she said. That persistence eventually carried her into the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). Looking back, she sees education not simply as qualification, but as protection. "Education was the one thing nobody could take away from me," she emphasises.

Their journeys show that for many girls, education is not just about careers. It translates to access, direction, and, sometimes, the means to keep a future open.

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09.03.2026
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Barbie debuts

Mattel, Inc. introduced Barbie, in full Barbara Millicent Roberts, an 11-inch-tall plastic doll with the figure of an adult woman, on this day in 1959

INSPIRATION

Ruth Handler, co-founder of Mattel, and her husband, Elliot, spearheaded the introduction of the doll. Its physical appearance was modeled on the German Bild Lilli doll

CRITICISM

Since the 1970s, Barbie has been criticised for materialism (amassing cars, houses, and clothes) and unrealistic body proportions

DESI BARBIE

Only in 1996, Mattel made its first genuine attempt to create an authentic Indian Barbie a move that sought to redeem Mattel's original Indian Barbie

Here's what's happening in Bengaluru!

PG 2

'Past can't be edited'

In an exclusive interview with *CE*, YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia addresses the *India's Got Latent* controversy, while hinting at a future collaboration with comedian Samay Raina

Ranveer Allahbadia with FICCI FLO chairperson Dekyi Yangtso Chawla

SRUTHI HEMACHANDRAN

THE applause had barely faded when a large crowd began gathering around Ranveer Allahbadia. Some wanted a quick selfie with 'BeerBiceps', others simply wanted to tell him they admired his work. Minutes earlier, the YouTuber had wrapped up a city event organised by FICCI FLO Bengaluru.

As the crowd slowly dispersed, he addressed one of the most talked-about chapters of his career: the 2025 controversy surrounding the show *India's Got Latent,* involving comedian Samay Raina. Looking back at the episode, Allahbadia says he no longer spends time revisiting what could have been done differently. "I had maybe a day or two where I thought, 'Oh my God! What just happened! Could I have changed something?' But I've learned over time that there's no point regretting the past. What really matters is the present and the future. This whole year, my self-narrative has been very simple: the past is fiction. The past can't be edited, so focus on the chapter you're writing now," he states.

Notably, following the row, the YouTube show was called off, and the episode, which triggered a backlash over obscure remarks, was taken down. Allahbadia had also rendered an apology hours after the issue made headlines. Despite the media attention, the 32-year-old underlined that his relationship with Raina remains intact. "He's a good friend. On a human-level, relationships come before professional equations. I've had a very good personal relationship with Samay for a long time, even before the show, and that doesn't change because of what people say," Allahbadia shares.

The backlash, however, did take an emotional toll on those closest to him. "My mom went through a tough time," he reveals, adding, "My family got a little shaken up. But they are fighters. I think everyone feels stronger and resilient after going through something like that."

The months that followed gave him an opportunity to step back and reassess his priorities. Meditation, fitness and the time away from the constant churn of online life helped him recalibrate. Explaining the result and work that's going behind his idea for the future, he explains, "Over the last 10 years, almost 100 per cent of my time was spent on content creation. Now it's closer to 60 or 70 per cent because I've shifted a lot of my focus towards building. I've built businesses. What I feel most wholesome and grateful about is creating jobs. In an AI-oriented world, where people are losing jobs. I feel it's the responsibility of Indian entrepreneurs to keep creating new ones."

Earlier on stage, speaking to Dekyi Yangtso Chawla, chairperson of the women-led business network, Allahbadia had touched on the same theme – to prepare young Indians for a rapidly evolving economy. "My theory is that there are a few domains that can't really be replaced," he says. "First is AI itself. Learning how to use AI better. Second is media, because that human element of being on screen or communicating with people is very hard to replace. And the third is soft skills." These ideas are also part of Skillhouse, his latest venture, which aims to train young Indians in communication, etiquette and global professional skills.

Years of interviewing celebrities, billionaires and spiritual leaders on his podcast, he says, have altered the way he thinks of public narratives. "The way we perceive the world often depends on those narratives and it's not always the objective truth," he adds.

Having navigated his own share of turbulence, Allahbadia now believes setbacks are rarely the end of the story. "This will probably become a key part of the movie that's made about your life one day. So just flow through it, learn from it and come out stronger," he faintly smiles as he signs off.

Samay Raina is a good friend. On a human-level, relationships come before professional equations. I've had a very good personal relationship with Samay for a long time, even before the show – Ranveer Allahbadia, YouTuber

WATCH LIST

It has been a tense week in global geopolitics with war on in full scale in the Middle East following USA-Israel strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliation across West Asia. In times of turmoil, humanity turns to art to explain, inform and comfort too. Here are a few documentaries and films that *CE* recommends

Piece of War

HITLER'S CIRCLE OF EVIL

This is the story of World War 2 told, not through the events unfolding on the battleground but by lifting the curtain on the personal dynamics and politics within Adolf Hitler's inner circle of confidantes who engineered it.

WHERE TO WATCH: **NETFLIX**

WHITE LIGHT/ BLACK RAIN

The threat of nuclear war looms over the current conflict in the Middle East – partially fuelled by who gets to have nuclear weapons and who does not.
This 2007 documentary, which interviews 14 Japanese survivors and four Americans involved in the 1945 atomic bombings, is a reminder of the severe human cost of war. How do we grapple with the truth of hundreds of thousands of people vapourising in a flash and leaving others with debilitating chronic conditions, 80 years after the bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

WHERE TO WATCH: **YOUTUBE**

1948: CREATION AND CATASTROPHE

Through moving personal recollections of both Palestinians and Israelis, this documentary looks at the brutal violence that led to the creation of Israel and set the tone for decades of violence and wars that continue to this day.

WHERE TO WATCH: **YOUTUBE**

PERSEPOLIS

Marjane Satrapi is a spirited, headstrong young girl growing up in the Shah's Iran when the Iranian Revolution and the fundamentalist rule which follows changes her life in ways she never expected. She rebels in small ways - with metal music, clothes she isn't supposed to wear - and is eventually expelled from school for opposing a teacher's lies about government abuses, having to flee to France for fear of arrest. This critically-acclaimed animated biographical drama made Satrapi the first woman to be nominated for Best Animated Feature at the Academy Awards.

WHERE TO WATCH: **YOUTUBE**

TURNING POINT: THE VIETNAM WAR

Featuring candid accounts from soldiers, civilians and reporters who lived through the US' war against North Vietnam, this documentary examines the politics that led to and had its hand across the brutality of the war, the widespread anti-war protest movements it inspired and how it left America forever changed.

WHERE TO WATCH: **NETFLIX.IN**

(COMPILED BY MAHIMA NAGARAJU)

JUST LIKE HOW THE NIGHT CHANGES

Former students of Mount Carmel College reunite at the Vasanth Nagar campus for the last all-women batch's graduation, which also marked a grand alumni meet, celebrating friendship and memories from their college years | KEVIN NASHON

CITY READ

Women's Day special run with 1,200 women held

Orion Malls celebrated International Women's Day with a series of events honouring women across the city on March 8. The celebrations began with the 'Sistra run', in association with Meraki Sport and Entertainment, where around 1,200 women participated in 2.5km, 5km, and 10km categories. The mall also hosted special experiential sessions for 25 selected women from diverse fields, including Radio RJs, fashion icons, lifestyle and food vloggers. The day ended with the fifth edition of Orion Wempower in partnership with Red FM India, featuring the Red Shakti Awards, which recognised inspiring women achievers from Bengaluru. Sunil Munshi, COO of Brigade Group, said the initiative aims to celebrate and empower women.

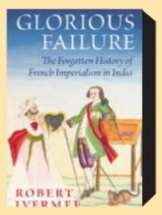
PG 3

BOOK NOOK

Absent People, Absent Places

By Saranya Subramanian

This is a collection of poems that observe the trajectory of depression in its varied forms. The author talks about moving away from the pain of absence.



Glorious Failure – The Forgotten History of French Imperialism in India

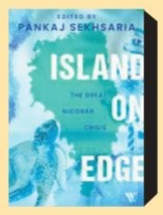
By Robert Ivermee

Uncover the truths of France's doomed imperial project in South Asia in this read and how France's Indian empire relied on war-making.

206 Bones – An Inspector Saralkar Mystery

By Salil Desai

Saralkar's team is faced with the pressure of a homicide and a high-profile murder-suicide of a DCP. In this telling, Saralkar must navigate a complex web of lies, guilt and silence.



Island On Edge – The Great Nicobar Crisis

By Pankaj Sekhsaria

The book tells the tale of the Great Nicobar Island. This collection of pieces asks pertinent questions and highlights the threats to biodiversity that the island faces.

MOVING WITH THE FLOW

A glimpse of the contemporary dance production, M'illumino D'immenso, created by Raphael Bianco, held in collaboration with the Consulate General of Italy in Bengaluru at the 12th edition of Attakkalari India Biennial at Alliance Francaise De Bangalore, Vasanth Nagar | **SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA**

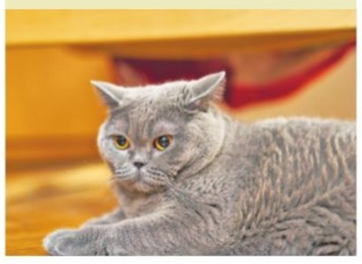
DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

What medication or checkups are musts for my two-year-old British Shorthair female cat?

At two, your British Shorthair should receive regular preventive care to maintain good health. Make sure core vaccines – FVRCP (feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, panleukopenia) and rabies – are current. Yearly deworming, flea and tick prevention, and dental checks are important. A wellness exam allows your vet to monitor weight, dental condition, heart, and kidney health. If she isn't spayed yet, this should be done. Routine medications aren't usually needed, but discuss any breed-specific concerns with your veterinarian. Consistent check-ups now help ensure long-term wellness.

ASK AN XPERT



FITBIT

FITNESS MYTHS YOU SHOULD STOP BELIEVING

The world of fitness is filled with advice, trends and quick fixes. While some of it is helpful, a lot is based on outdated ideas, or misunderstandings about how the body actually works. These myths can slow down progress, lead to frustration, or even increase the risk of injury. Understanding what is fact and fiction can help you build a more effective and stainable fitness routine.

MYTH 1: SPOT REDUCTION CAN HELP YOU LOSE FAT IN ONE AREA

Many people believe that doing exercises targeting a specific area, such as crunches for belly fat, will help reduce fat in that exact spot. In reality, fat loss does not work this way. The body loses fat overall rather than from a single area, and where fat disappears first depends on genetics and body composition.

MYTH 2: SWEATING MORE MEANS A BETTER WORKOUT

Sweating is often seen as a sign that a workout is working. However, sweat is simply the body's way of cooling itself down. Factors such as temperature, humidity, and genetics influence how much you sweat. The effectiveness of a workout depends on the effort and intensity involved, not the amount of sweat produced.

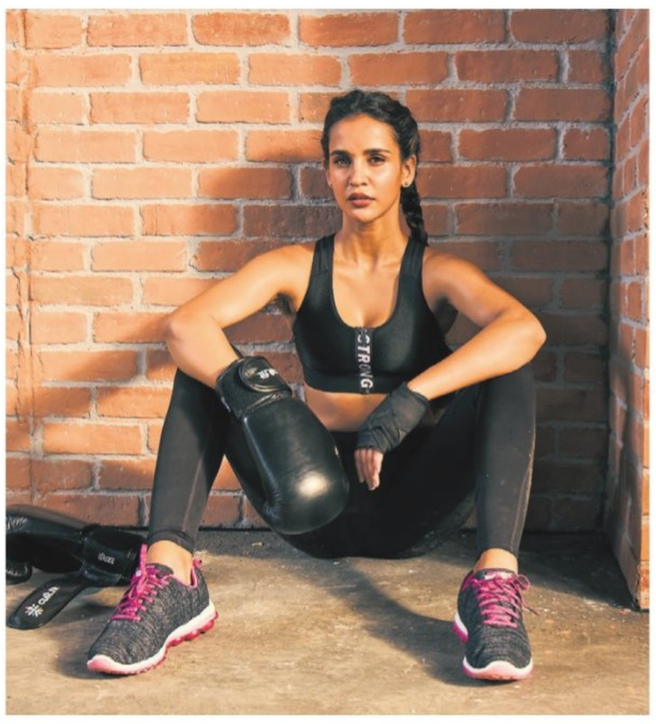
MYTH 3: LIFTING WEIGHTS MAKES WOMEN BULKY

This is one of the most common misconceptions. Many women avoid strength training because they fear gaining excessive muscle mass. In reality, women naturally have lower testosterone levels than men, making it difficult to build large muscles. Strength training instead helps develop lean muscle, improve metabolism, and enhance overall body strength.

MYTH 4: CARDIO IS THE ONLY WAY TO LOSE WEIGHT

Cardio exercises, such as running or cycling, are great for heart health, but they are not the only path to weight loss. Strength training plays an equally important role. Building muscle increases metabolism, allowing the body to burn more calories even at rest. A balanced fitness routine usually combines both cardio and resistance training.

When you focus on evidence-based practices instead of popular misconceptions, you create a routine that supports long-term health and sustainable progress.



By Abhishek K, fitness expert, cult — a fitness and wellness platform

QUICKFIX

CITRUS SPICED COFFEE

Contributed by **Rijitha R,** Chennai

INGREDIENTS

- **Coffee powder:** 2 spoons
- **Cinnamon stick:** 1
- **Orange:** 1
- **Sugar/ honey**

METHOD

- Brew coffee – two spoon of powder with one glass of water with cinnamon stick and orange slice.
- Filter the coffee and add honey, and two spoons of orange juice.

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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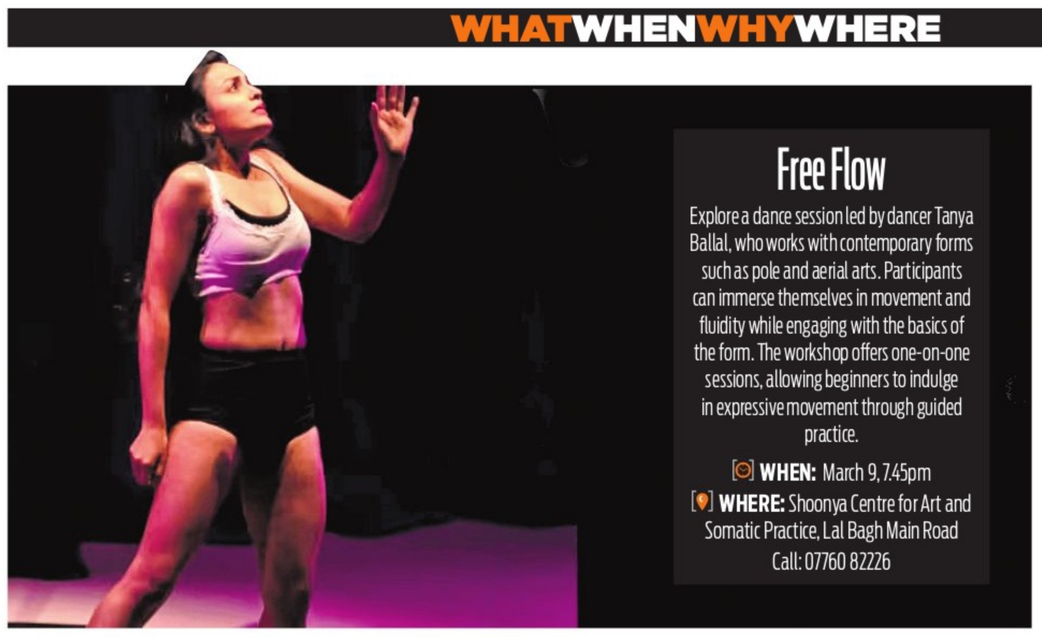
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE



Free Flow

Explore a dance session led by dancer Tanya Ballal, who works with contemporary forms such as pole and aerial arts. Participants can immerse themselves in movement and fluidity while engaging with the basics of the form. The workshop offers one-on-one sessions, allowing beginners to indulge in expressive movement through guided practice.

WHEN: March 9, 7.45pm
WHERE: Shoonya Centre for Art and Somatic Practice, Lal Bagh Main Road
Call: 07760 82226

Lights, Camera, Comfort

Spend a relaxed movie night that offers pure comfort and good vibes. Designed for a cinematic escape, the event features a big-screen setup, comfortable seating, unlimited popcorn and fresh tea and coffee, best for an outing with family and friends.

WHEN: March 9, 9pm
WHERE: Mushroom Studio, Haralur
DETAILS: district.in

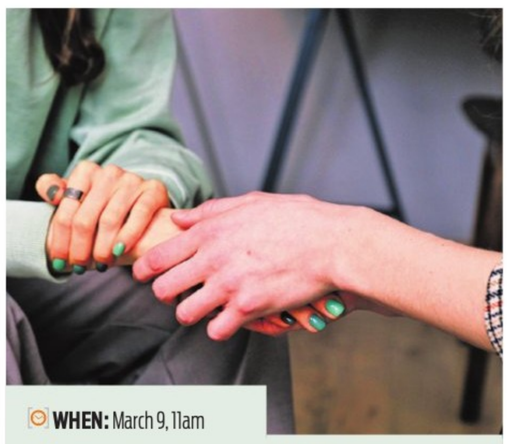
Bottles Reimagined

Enjoy the art of bottle decoupage in this hands-on workshop that invites participants to transform simple glass bottles into decorative pieces. Attendees can learn the process of layering designs, patterns and textures using decoupage techniques. The session is beginner-friendly, with all materials provided and guidance offered throughout the workshop.

WHEN: March 9, 3pm
WHERE: Brik Oven, Koramangala
CALL: 74117 22883

To Be Honest

Step into a conversation-led session, where participants can explore thoughts, experiences and personal stories in an open space. The session invites people to share, listen and reflect through meaningful dialogue, creating an opportunity to connect through conversations about life and everyday experiences.



WHEN: March 9, 11am
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com
WHERE: Odyssey Vibes, BTM Layout

Laugh After Dark

Catch a late-night stand-up comedy show that brings together a lineup of comedians from across the country. While the performers remain a surprise until showtime, audiences may get to see well-known names take the stage. The show brings together seasoned comics and emerging performers for an evening of spontaneous humour, punchlines and crowd interaction.

WHEN: March 9, 9.30pm
WHERE: The Comedy Theatre, Church Street
DETAILS: district.in

Retro Ragas

Immerse yourself in an evening of Kannada melodies that revisit the golden era of music from the '70s, '80s and '90s. Participants can explore nostalgic tunes that continue to resonate across generations while enjoying an interactive musical setting.

WHEN: March 9, 6pm
WHERE: Silaa – The Garden Cafe, Malleswaram
CALL: 90710 96565

ARTCORNER

MADURAI STREETSCAPE

Artist Iruvan Karunakaran captures the beauty and living heritage of the streets surrounding the Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai through his expressive oil paintings

TRULY MAJESTIC!

A quick look at MG Majestor, the newly-released rugged SUV in the premium segment

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

TO the full-size SUV market, a new 'it' machine has arrived – JSW MG Motor's Majestor. Compared to MG's own Gloster, Majestor trumps in all aspects.

It is the longest, widest, and tallest SUV with the longest wheelbase in the segment. According to MG, Majestor goes beyond the traditional D-segment in terms of size, stance and features, hence it has created a new D+ segment.

Majestor comes in three variants – Sharp and Savvy. And Savvy itself has two variants, 2WD and 4WD. Just last week, as the car was introduced to the market, I was able to take the Majestor on a ride. Based on the experience, let me discuss how Majestor finds itself in a unique position in the market.

The beaut

It has that rugged look, complemented by a large octagonal matrix grille. The dragon eye-themed vertical daytime running lamps, split headlamps, connected LED tail lamps with sequential turn signals, raised hood line, and 19-inch alloy wheels and dual exhaust tips, all contribute to the large build.

The segment-leading proportions – 5,046mm length, 2,016mm width, 1,870mm height, and 2,950mm wheelbase – ensure an unmatched presence on the road.

The inside

As you open the door, a very spacious black-themed cabin with plush leather and a sleek centre console welcomes you.

Both the driver and co-driver seats are ventilated, and they even have a massage function. Both have memorised positions and can be adjusted in multiple ways (12-way driver, 8-way passenger). Panoramic sunroof and three-zone AC ensure personalised comfort.

Along with flexible six or seven-seater configurations, you can find features such as panoramic sunroof, three-zone AC, dual 12.3-inch displays, wireless Android Auto/Apple CarPlay, 12-speaker JBL sound, dual wireless chargers, 220V outlet, and 75+ iSMART connectivity.

The safety

Safety remains a core pillar of the Majestor. The SUV is equipped with Level 2 ADAS, providing assisted steering, braking, and acceleration for enhanced driver confidence. Safety features like a 360-degree HD camera, electronic stability programme (ESP), integrating anti-lock braking system (ABS), electronic brakeforce distribution (EBD), traction control system (TCS), and roll movement intervention (RMI) add to the package

The power

Powered by a 2.0-litre twin-turbo diesel engine that churns 215 hp and 478.5 Nm torque, it has an eight-speed automatic transmission in both 2WD and advanced 4WD. The advanced 4WD system comes with 10 off-road modes that balances on-road ease and off-road might.

In auto mode, the vehicle intelligently operates in 2WD during regular driving conditions and automatically switches to 4WD the moment it detects loss of traction. This ensures better fuel efficiency during daily use while delivering enhanced off-road capability, exactly when required. This intelligent mode is particularly effective in conditions such as rain, snow, and slippery surfaces which require higher speeds.

Majestor is the first in the segment to offer front, rear, and centre differential locks, enabling it to pull itself out of extreme situations even when one or more wheels lose traction or lift off the ground. Supported by Crawl Control Mode, 219 mm ground clearance, and an 810 mm water wading capability, this behemoth is an ideal companion for roadless terrains.

Media personnel were not allowed to drive off-road but could join in the fun from the passenger seat. The reason was simple – in front of us was a challenging track. The trained driver demonstrated the prowess of the technologies that run the Majestor. Steep inclines, side pits, one wheel up drives, water-wading, mud, gravel, slush... Anything we list out, the SUV conquers with ease. It is definitely engineered for durability and reliability across the toughest terrains.

The verdict

The Majestor will compete mainly with the Toyota Fortuner, Skoda Kodiaq and VW Tayron in the Indian market. It has all the bells and whistles that one can expect in this category. The prices are yet to be announced. Now it is the pre-reservation phase, and the launch is expected in April. It definitely has what it takes to carve out a decent share of the market.

XPRESS HIGHWAY
SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

RELEASES

TATA launches new Punch.ev

TATA Motors launched its new Punch at an attractive introductory price of ₹9.69 lakh (ex-showroom, Mumbai). TATA.ev is also offering the option of BaaS, starting at ₹6.49 lakh with a battery EMI of ₹2.6/km. The new Punch.ev is ideal for everyday city use and short intercity trips. Additionally, it will also be offered with a new 30kWh battery pack option. The battery can quickly charge from 20% to 80 per cent in just 26 minutes and easily top up the battery with 135 km of real-world range in just 15 minutes. Price ranges from ₹9.69 lakh to ₹12.59 lakh.

Renault Duster returns

The iconic Renault Duster is returning to India with a modern and stylish design. It comes in two turbo engines – Turbo TCe 160, Turbo TCe 100. It is also introducing a strong hybrid E-Tech 160 powertrain based on a 1.8L engine, with a 1.4kwh battery, acknowledged for its best-in-class efficiency. Made for India, Duster offers top-notch connectivity and five-star safety standards. Customers can pre-book the new Renault Duster for ₹21,000. Price will be announced mid-March, and customer deliveries will begin in April.

SMART ADS

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mr. Suhas R S** (Suhas R Sundaresh), S/o R . Sundaresh aged about 21 years, R/O No 726, Kannimara, 1st main, 11th Block, Nagarbhavi 2nd stage, Papareddypalaya Bus Stop, Nagarbhavi Bengaluru- 560072 have changed the name from **Suhas S (Suhas Sundaresh)** to **Suhas R S (Suhas R Sundaresh)** Affidavit dated 04/03/2026 sworn before the Notary Sathyanarayana Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, No.1367081M, Rank: Nk, Name: **Vijaya Kumar P,** residing at #77/5, 2nd Cross, Annayappa Garden, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560075, have changed the name of my daughter from **V.A BABITHA** to **BABITHA V JAIN,** vide Affidavit Dated: 05/03/2026 sworn before XXIX Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **A. ASLAM PASHA,** S/o Late H. Abdul Abbas, age 48 years, R/at 29/A, MES Road, 2nd Main Road, Opp. Sri Udho Sadan, Muthyalnagar, Mathikere Post, Bengaluru-560054 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **ASLAM PASHA** and **A. ASLAM PASHA** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **A. ASLAM PASHA** for all practical purposes, vide affidavit dated 6th March 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B. CHITRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Smt. B. MARIA MARGARET** alias **AMILI,** W/o No. 1276835Late. Amalanathan, R/a No.37, E.T.Block, Oorgaum Post, K.G.F.563 120, Tehsil: KGF, Dist. Karnataka-563 120, have changed my name from **B. MARIA MARGARET** alias **AMILI** to **MARIA MARGRET AMBLI** vide Affidavit dated: 06.03.2026 before the1st Addl.Sr. Civil Judge & JMFC, K.G.F.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Nageswari R**, Aged about 40 years, Residing at No. 111, GNR Platinum Fort, Babusapalya, Hormavu Agara, Bangalore - 560 043, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Nageswari R** to **Sangamithra Nageswari** vide affidavit dated 6.3.2026 sworn before A. Idinabba, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRAVEEN N, Aged about 32 years, S/o. Narayan Swamy T, residing at # 257, Shri Chowdeshwari Devi Nilaya, 7th Main Road, Dollars Colony, JP Nagar 4th Phase, Bangalore-560078, that I have changed my father name from NARAYAN SWAMI THIMMAIAH, NARAYANA SWAMY T (Old Name) to NARAYAN SWAMY T (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated: 07/03/2026, before Notary MOHAMMED HUSSAIN K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ARUNKUMARAGURU M,** Aged about 39 years, Son of Mr. Muniyandi P, Residing at No. 10/6, Gandhi Nagar, Karuppasamy Kovil Street, Bodinayakanur Theni, Tamil Nadu 625 513, have changed my son's name from **A. Sai Thiyash to Sai Thiyash A** for all purposes affidavit dated 06/03/2026 sworn before advocate and notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, CHANDRAKANTH R/at House No. E /151 Grama Hagaragundagi Kalaburagi City pin- 585308 have changed my name to **CHANDRAKANT** vide affidavit dated: 4/3/2026 Before Notary **K.V. Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHEELA NAGARAJA REDDY** (Old Name), aged about 39 years, D/o NAGARAJA REDDY, RESIDING AT NO 1085/3,9TH MAIN 2ND CROSS,BDA LAYOUT, KALYANANAGAR, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA-560043, declare that I have changed my name from **SHEELA NAGARAJA REDDY** (Old Name) to **SHEELA BANAHALLI NAGARAJA REDDY** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHEELA BANAHALLI NAGARAJA REDDY** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 02/02/2026 before Notary **GANGARAJU.B.N.** at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SRI.S.DHANARAJ @ SRI.DEEPAK.S,** S/o Sri Subramani .R and Smt. Manjula age 31 years, R/at Halasahalli Cross, Varthur Vilalge and Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru-560087 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **SRI S.DHANARAJ** and **SRI.DEEPAK.S** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 5-3-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B.M. CHANDRASHEKAR** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VUPPUTUR VENKATA CHENNA LAKSHMI SUMATHI,** W/o VUPPUTUR RAMRAJ, residing at No.1864/1, 32nd Cross,10th Main,Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 560070, do hereby solemnly declare that **VUPPUTUR SUMATHI** and **VUPPUTUR VENKATA CHENNA LAKSHMI SUMATHI** both the names are one and the same.I further declare that I have changed my name from **VUPPUTUR VENKATA CHENNA LAKSHMI SUMATHI** to **VUPPUTUR SUMATHI** vide Affidavit dated 20.02.2026, sworn before Notary ARUN R NAIK, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Chitra H. Ankolekar**, D/o. Honnappa, W/o. Narayan Singannanavar, Aged about 43 years, residing at No. 5/2, Sri Manjunatha Nilaya, 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, Opp. Kabbadi Ground, Govindaraja Nagar, VTC : Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 040, do hereby declare that the following names **Chitra H. Ankolekar, Chitra Narayan Singannavar, Chitra Ankolelar** and **Chitra H.A.** are my own names, belonging to the same person that is my self, for the purpose of changing my name as **Chitra H.A.** in my service Records, Service Registrar, in BESCOM. Vide affidavit dated 6.3.2026 sworn before Arun R. Naik, Advocate & Notary, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Abdul Khader, S/o. M. Abdul Haq, aged about 57 years, R/at No. H-100, 3rd Main, 1st Cross, L.N.Puram, Srirampuram, Bangaluru-560 021, in different documents my name is mentioned as Abdul Khader.A, Abdul Khader, Abdul Khader Abdul Hukh, Abdul Khader, Abdul Khader Abdul Huq All the above names pertaining to a same person i.e., **Abdul Khader**. Vide affidavit dated 04.03.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary P.N.Nagesh, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BANKANAL PRASANTH KUMAR,** aged about 46 years and resident of No.A1204, Janapriya Greenwood Apartment, Somashettyhalli Post, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore-560090 have changed my name to **BANKANAL PRASHANTH KUMAR** for all purposes affidavit dated 07/03/2026 sworn before advocate and notary Anuradha .D, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ASHOK,** S/o V.Venkatesh, aged about 41 years, R/at No.10, 4th Cross, Venkatagiriyappa Building, Shanthi Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru-560016, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ASHOK KUMAR.M to ASHOK** and my father name has been changed as **V.VENKATESH** instead of **RAMACHANDRAPPA.M** Vide affidavit dated: 06-03-2026, sworn before Notary Nijagunaradhya.T.C, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHILPA RAJENDRA BIRADAR,** W/o Rajendra Biradar, age 38 years, R/at No. 741, Shree, 19th Cross, 1st Block, Narayana Nagar, Bank Officers Layout, Doddakallasandra, Bengaluru-560062 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHILPA PATIL** to **SHILPA RAJENDRA BIRADAR,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHILPA RAJENDRA BIRADAR** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 7th March 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAHESHA.J.J** at Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AROGYAPPA,** R/at No.66/2, 402/1, 9th Main Road, 9th Cross, 3rd Stage, Avalahalli, BDA Layout, Bengaluru-560085 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **AROGIAPPA JOSEPH** to **AROGYAPPA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **AROGYAPPA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 07-03-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. DAYANANDA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAJU MARAKALA KOTA** (Old Name), S/o NARAYANA MARAKALA Aged about 47 years Resident at NO.4/53(5), SHRI VAARI, PADUKERE VILLAGE, KOTATHATTU, KOTATHATTU POST, UDUPI-576221, KARNATAKA, PRESENTLY CAMPED AT BENGALURU CITY, declare that I have changed my name from **RAJU MARAKALA KOTA** (Old Name) to **RAJU MARAKALA** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **RAJU MARAKALA** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 07/03/2026 before Notary **GANGARAJU.B.N.** at BENGALURU

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Chintu Jain**, S/o. Jeethmal Jain, Aged about 42 years, Residing at No. 2/1, Matru Krupa, 3rd Floor, Jain Temple Street Cross, Near Sajjanrao School, VV Puram, Bengaluru South - 560 004, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Chintu Jain** to **Jay Jain** vide affidavit dated 06.03.2026 sworn before Hemalatha .P. Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Venkanagouda Malipatil,** aged about 42 years, Son of Mr. Virupakshagouda Malipatil, Residing at No. 06, Nanda Gokul Nilaya, 1st Cross, Muneshwar Layout, B. Channasandra, Bangalore - 560043, Hereby declare that my names **Venkanagouda, Venkanagouda Virupakshagouda Malipatil,** and **Venkanagouda Malipatil** belong to one and the same person. Henceforth, I have decided to continue my name in future as **Venkanagouda Malipatil** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 7/3/2026 sworn to before M Narendran Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, CHETANKUMAR HAVERI, S/o Mrutyunjaya B Haveri, (Passport No. P9032280) (Date of Birth 07/06/2002) and residing at #15, 2nd Main, 9th Cross, Maheshwari Nagar, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560057 Karnataka, have changed my name to **CHETANKUMAR MRUTYUNJAYA HAVERI** for all purposes affidavit dated 07/03/2026 sworn before advocate and notary Uday Kariyappa .B.G, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUMA RANI JEEVARATHNAM ETHIRAJU** D/o **JEEVARATHNAM ETHIRAJU** R/at No. 504, B-10 Kailas BDA Jnanabharathi Residencial Enclave Mysore Road Valagerahalli Kengeri Bengaluru - 560060 have changed my name to **SUMA RANI** vide affidavit dated: 7/3/2026 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **IRFAN AHMED RAHEEM,** aged 51 years, S/o. Abdul Raheem, residing at #312 C, RWF Quarters, RWF West Colony, Opp. Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru 560064, have changed my name to **IRFAN AHMED,** vide affidavit dated: 07.03.2026 before notary **SIVAKUMARA.M.N.**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **POOJA PORWAL,** R/at No. 10/2, Vidya Sadan, 2nd Floor, 2nd Cross, Annayappa Block, K.P. West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **POOJA MAHESH PORWAL** to **POOJA PORWAL,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **POOJA PORWAL** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 07-03-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. DAYANANDA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **N. LINGESH,** S/o T K Nanjundegowda, aged about 43 years, R/at No.08, Mathrushree Nilaya, 1 A Cross, A P C Layout, Near Puja Bakery, Lake Shore Garden, Thindlu, Doddabommasandra, Bengaluru-560097. I Declare that name **N. LINGESH** and **N. LINGESHA** all these names are one and the same person and belongs to me. Vide Affidavit Dated 06.03.2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary K.V. NANJAIAH, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MADHUSUDHAN R (MADHUSUDHAN RANGASWAMY),** aged about 50 years, S/o. Rangaswamy, No. 153, 37th Cross, 26th Main ICICI Bank Jayanagar 9th Block, Bengaluru-560069, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MADHUSUDHANA RANGASWAMY** to **MADHUSUDHAN R (MADHUSUDHAN RANGASWAMY)** vide affidavit dated 06.03.2026, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, CATHERINE LAKSHMI, W/o. MAHESH, R/at No. 38/3/1, 1st Floor, Block A, Flat G4, 4th Cross, 6th Main. Appareddypalya, Bengaluru-560038, Karnataka, INDIA, I have changed my name from **CATHERINE LAKSHMI MAHESH** to **CATHERINE LAKSHMI**, vide affidavit dated 05.03.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary H S Sakalesh Aradhya.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving
THE MIRACLE PRAYER
Dear heart of Jesus in the past I have asked many favours. This time I ask you this special one (mention favour). Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your heart where your father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your own favour not mine. Amen. Say this prayer three times for three days and your favour will be granted. Never been known to fail. Must promise publication of prayer.
- JKS

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **REVATHI G,** W/o. No.1348374, late Ex-Sepoy Narayanan, residing at #15, 4th Cross, Near Amar School, Ambedkar Nagar, D.J.Halli, Arabic College Post, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru 560045, have changed my name from **REVATHI** to **REVATHI G,** vide Affidavit Dated: 05/03/2026 sworn before XXIX Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **THANGARAJ .S,** S/o Srinivasan, age 66 years, R/at No.7, 5th Cross, Near Panchavathi Apartment, Gandhinagar, Srirampura, Bengaluru-560 021 do hereby declare that my correct name is THANGARAJ .S, but in my passport my name is wrongly mentioned as **THANGARAJU** instead of **THANGARAJ .S,** vide affidavit dated 7th March 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **RAVI KUMAR .V** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mr. KOTA SHANKAR PATRA,** S/o Kota Subarao Patra, age 50 years, permament Address at Sindhiguda, Naukote, Nabarangapur, State Odisha-764071, now R/at 1-2, Sampada Residency, Surya Layout, Ayyappa Nagar, Bangalore-560036 do hereby declare that both the names of my son i.e. **KOTA SWADHIN PATRO** and **K SWDHINA PATRA** are one and the same and refers to my son only, but my son's correct name is **KOTA SWADHIN PATRO**, vide affidavit dated 4-2-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.R. PADMANABHAIAH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **CHETAN SHINDHE** Residing at No.10, 15 B Cross, 8th Main, BNS Layout Muthyalnagar, Bangalore – 560054, have changed my name to **CHETANA SINDHE**, vide affidavit dated 05/03/2026 sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRASANNA KUMAR S (PRASANNA KUMAR SAPTASAGAR)** aged about 47 years, S/o. Sathyappa Saptasagara, Balaji Swasthi Flat No. GF 001, Noble Residency Road, Doddakamanahalli, Bengaluru-560076, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PRASANNA KUMARA S (PRASANNA KUMARA SAPTASAGAR)** to **PRASANNA KUMAR S (PRASANNA KUMAR SAPTASAGAR),** vide affidavit dated 07.03.2026, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of india, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VIJAYA R** (Old Name) D/o Raju Mahabala Hegde, Residing at No.541, 1st Floor, 14th A Main Road, Gokula 1st Stage, 1st Phase, HMT Layout, VTC Mathikere, Post Msrit, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560054, have changed my name as **VIJAYALAKSSHMI SHETTY**, (New Name), for all the purposes vide Affidavit dated 06-03-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **Ravi** at Bangalore.

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Ayesha Zeenath makes Kannada debut with KS Ashoka's social drama

Pruthvi Ambaar and Deekshith Shetty reunite after *Dia* for a yet-to-be-titled rural social drama, with Deepika also joining the cast

Ayesha Zeenath

Deekshith Shetty

Pruthvi Ambaar

Deepika

A SHARADHAA

ACTORS Pruthvi Ambaar and Deekshith Shetty, who shared screen space and found success with *Dia* (2020), have reunited once again for director KS Ashoka's upcoming yet-to-be-titled social drama. The film, which also features Sridhar H Krishna in a prominent role, has already wrapped up its talkie portions and is now moving towards completing the shoot.

In a recent development, the team announced that actor Ayesha Zeenath will make her Kannada film debut with this venture. Hailing from Kasargod, Ayesha first gained popularity through Tamil television and later caught wider attention after participating in *Bigg Boss* Tamil Season 6. She has since explored opportunities across television, films, and digital platforms. Her film credits include *Rambo* in Tamil and *Dr Bennet* in Malayalam, and she is now taking a step into a new language. In this film, she will be paired opposite Deekshith Shetty.

The makers have also roped in Deepika, who rose to popularity through the comedy reality show Comedy Khiladigalu. After finding success on television, Deepika has been taking up acting and comedy assignments across shows and stage performances. In the film, she will be paired opposite Pruthvi Ambaar.

Ashoka, known for telling stories rooted in human emotions, has set this film against a village backdrop, unfolding as a social drama. Further details about the plot are being kept under wraps.

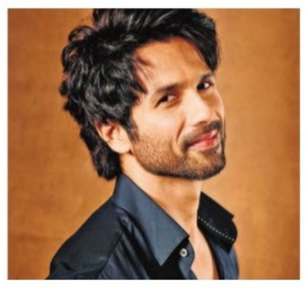
Produced by Naveen SP under the banner of SPK Productions, the team is expected to complete the remaining portions of the shoot soon and move into post-production. With debutant Priyadarshan composing the music, the film has cinematography by Hemanth Kumar.

Anupam Kher joins Prabhas in *FAUZI*

CE FEATURES

ANUPAM Kher has joined the cast of Prabhas-starrer *Fauzi*. Directed by Hanu Raghavapudi, the film is produced under the Mythri Movie Makers banner. The story is set in the 1940s and focuses on a soldier in the Azad Hind Force. Production banner announced the news with a post on its official X handle on Saturday on the occasion of Kher's 71st birthday. "Wishing the phenomenal. @AnupamPKher Ji a very Happy Birthday. It is an absolute honour to have you as part of the #*Fauzi* battalion. Wishing you a happy and a healthy year ahead," read the caption.

The film will be shot in two parts, with the second film being a prequel. Kher's latest work is *Tanvi The Great*, which also marked his return to direction. The film released in July 2025 and also starred Shubhangi Dutt alongside the actor.



Shahid Kapoor starts shooting for *Farzi S2*

CE FEATURES

SHAHID KAPOOR has started shooting for the second season of *Farzi*. The actor shared the news on social media with a picture in which he was seen alongside the filmmaker duo Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D K, better known as Raj and DK.

The first season of *Farzi*, released in 2023, featured Shahid in the role of Sunny, a brilliant small-time artist, who gets propelled into the high-stakes world of counterfeiting after creating the perfect fake currency note. Released on Prime Video, it also starred Raashii Khanna and Vijay Sethupathi in pivotal roles and marked the OTT debut for Shahid. The actor recently appeared in *O'Romeo* by Vishal Bhardwaj. The film also starred Triptii Dimri, Avinash Tiwary, and Tamannaah Bhatia.

The upcoming Kannada–Malayalam film will be a two-chapter saga that unfolds across timelines, linking a modern-day character to the legacy of King Agastya

Yash, Rakshit, and Rishab inspired me to explore storytelling: Aryn Santosh

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Aryn Santosh is stepping into a new creative space. After appearing in films such as Rocky alongside Yash and Mathadu Mathadu Mallige with Vishnuvardhan, he is now set to make his directorial debut with *Chenkol: The Lost Kingdom*, a fantasy drama, headlined by him.

The film's motion poster offers a glimpse into a mysterious world of ancient power, forgotten history and a kingdom buried in time.

For Aryn, the film comes after years of observing the craft of cinema. "I always wanted to narrate my own story. Fifteen years in the industry gave me the knowledge and confidence to take up the responsibilities of direction," he tells CE. "Friends from the industry like Yash, Rakshit Shetty and Rishab Shetty have inspired me to explore storytelling in my own voice."

The motion poster sets the tone for a dark fantasy world. "It is essentially a fantasy period drama. Through the visuals I wanted to reflect devotion, legacy and the mystery surrounding a kingdom that has been lost to history," Aryn explains.

The director has structured *Chenkol* as a two-chapter narrative. While Chapter 1 has already been completed, the story unfolds across two timelines. The first instalment centres on DJ Santu, a contemporary character played by Aryn, whose journey slowly uncovers a connection to an ancient past.

Aryn Santosh

"In Chapter 1, audiences meet DJ Santu in a modern setting," he says. "But the story gradually opens doors to a past that goes back nearly 1,500 years. The second chapter will explore the era of King Agastya and the origins of the lost kingdom."

The title itself carries symbolic meaning. *Chenkol* refers to a royal sceptre, a sign of rightful authority. The narrative connects mythology, devotion and history with an adventurous quest.

"The story begins in Bengaluru and travels to Kerala. There are inspirations drawn from temple legends, including references to the Padmanabhaswamy Temple," he adds.

Produced by Winter Bridge Studioz and Pixle Originals, the film features Manasavi Manu and Saranya as female leads, alongside Akshitha Bopaiah, Pooja Shetty, Vaamshi Uday, Mahantesh Hiremath, Aruna Balaraj, Sundar Veena and Aravind Rao in key roles.

Cinematography is by Vipin D Raj, while Manikanth Kadri handles the background score. Songs are composed by All Ok, Joe Costa and Gautam, with lyrics by Pramod Maravante.

With glimpses of weapons, and hints of a forgotten kingdom, the motion poster sets the stage for a larger saga built around legacy, rebellion and destiny. "We are working towards a July release," signs off Aryn.

Love Mocktail 3 will be the final chapter of Adi's journey

The film, directed, acted, and produced by Krishna along with Milana Nagaraj, is set to be distributed by KVN Productions

CE FEATURES

THE trailer of *Love Mocktail 3*, starring and directed by Darling Krishna, was unveiled recently, offering a nostalgic yet emotional glimpse into what appears to be the concluding chapter of the popular franchise. From its opening moments, the trailer explains that this instalment is meant to bring closure to Adi's journey, a story that began with *Love Mocktail* in 2020 and went on to become one of Kannada cinema's most relatable romantic dramas.

The first film struck a chord with audiences for its gentle storytelling and emotional honesty, establishing Krishna as both a leading man and a filmmaker with a distinct voice. The journey continued with *Love Mocktail 2*, which explored grief and healing after loss. Now, *Love Mocktail 3* appears ready to take that journey forward while bringing it full circle. The trailer opens with glimpses from the earlier films, revisiting key moments that shaped Adi's life. These flashes serve as a recap for audiences, reminding them of the love, heartbreak and resilience that defined the character. The turning point comes from the end of the second film, where Adi adopts a little girl. The third chapter builds from that moment, placing the child at the centre of the narrative.

While the trailer carefully avoids revealing too many details, the emotional focus clearly shifts to the bond between Adi and the young girl. Unlike the earlier instalments that revolved largely around romance, this film hints at a tender father-daughter relationship, suggesting a story that explores responsibility, healing and companionship.

Krishna directs the film and also produces it along with his wife and actor Milana Nagaraj under the KrisshMi Films banner. The cast includes Darling Krishna, Milana Nagaraj, Samvrutha, Abhilash Dalapathi, Dileep Raj, Shwetha Prasad, Jagadish, Giri Raj, Rajani and Neyaara in key roles, along with several other supporting actors.

The film also brings back familiar faces from the earlier instalments, including Amrutha Iyengar and Rachel David, while introducing a few fresh additions to the ensemble.

The cinematography and editing are handled by Sri Crazy Mind, while the music is composed by Nakul Abhyankar. Distributed by KVN Productions, the film arrives at an interesting moment. After the release of Toxic, starring Yash, was postponed, *Love Mocktail 3* has stepped into that window and is now scheduled to hit theatres on March 19, to capitalise on the long festive weekend marking both Ugadi and Ramzan.

With the first film becoming a hit and the second winning hearts, *Love Mocktail 3* now arrives carrying the warmth of familiarity and the promise of closure, a final toast to Adi's long, winding journey through love and life.

A still from the film

Team Love Mocktail 3

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DHARMENDRA produces the film under the Janaki Combines banner. Ranjith Kumar Gowda is directing the film, and has written the story and screenplay. The inaugural shot included noted Bhagavata Patla Satish Shetty giving the clap, while Mangaluru Lokayukta SP BP Dinesh Kumar turned on the camera. Retired Lokayukta Commissioner Nataraj and Biruver Kudla founder-president Uday Poojari attended the event and offered their best wishes to the team.

Director Ranjith Kumar Gowda describes *Kadal Kote* as a gangster drama set along the coast. The film explores family bonds, friendship, love, and the consequences of pursuing money at any cost. "The story focuses on the struggle for power to control a harbour. It examines the exploitation and conflicts that arise there and how the protagonist rises through those circumstances," he states.

The film is partly inspired by real events, and the team plans to shoot for about 65 days in Udupi, Surathkal, Mangaluru harbour, and Bengre. The film will include five songs.

For producer Dharmendra,

Team Kadal Kote

STRONG WRITING MADE ME SAY YES TO *KADAL KOTE*: Vasishta Simha

Kadal Kote marks his first film. He mentions that the story developed after he shared some incidents he had seen and heard with the director. "We have a talented cast and a solid team. I hope the film turns out well for everyone involved," he adds, expressing his desire to produce more films in the future.

Discussing the project, Vasishta Simha states that the writing attracted him to the role. "Every character in this film is well-written, and that strong writing is the main reason I took it on. The story draws inspiration from various incidents in this region, making it feel very real and personal. While it's a gangster story, it also holds significant values. It has been some time since I played a mass role, so I'm excited. It's also my third film with P Ravi Shankar, and working with him is always special."

Vasishta Simha and Ravi Shankar

Ravi Shankar plays a key character in the film. While the actor does not reveal much about his role, he notes that the story progresses through his character. He is confident that the film will become another memorable project.

Kadal Kote also features Sushmita Bhat as the female lead. The ensemble cast includes Achyuth Kumar, Swaraj Shetty, Sharath Lohithashwa, Tara, Bala Rajwadi, and Yash Shetty in significant roles.

The film has music by Shashank Sheshagiri, cinematography by Venus Nagaraj Murthy, and editing by Pawan Gowda.

WELCOME 4 IN THE WORKS

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ON Sunday, actor Paresh Rawal confirmed that a fourth instalment in the *Welcome* franchise is in the works. The film is set to bring him back together with his *Welcome* co-stars Anil Kapoor and Nana Patekar. It will see Anil Kapoor reprise his role as Majnu Bhai from the *Welcome* films, whereas Paresh Rawal and Nana Patekar will come back as Dr Ghungroo and Uday Shetty, respectively. According to reports, producer Firoz A Nadiadwala and "his team of writers" are on an "advanced stage" of completing a screenplay for the film. Akshay Kumar's involvement in the fourth film is yet to be confirmed. Meanwhile, the third film in the franchise, *Welcome to the Jungle* is expected to release in theatres on June 26.